FRIDAY
March 1, 2024
BENGALURU
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Holistic Development of Children is the Key, For Optimum Success & Bliss in Life.

While Students at Other Institutes are Stressed or in Tension

FIITJEE Students Walk into Top Ranks in

JEE Main 2024*

*Session 1

indulging in Their Favourite Sports & Extracurricular Activities

8 FIITJEE Students achieve an overall 100 NTA Score

For details please turn over...

A National Level Archer & Khelo India Athlete achieves 100 NTA Score in JEE Main 2024

SUCCESS JOURNEY

Sriyashas Mohan Kalluri

Student of Four Year Classroom Program (IX - XII), upgraded to PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated Program (XI - XII)

Class VIII
Oct 2019 - Appeared in FIITJEE's BBE Test
Date of Enrolment - 28 Nov 2019
Enrolled in FIITJEE's Four Year Classroom Program (IX-XII)

Class IX
April 2020 - Started classes at FIITJEE.
Won GOLD MEDAL in Archery at 2021 Sub Junior (U-17) State Level Selections

Class X
Scored A+ in all 9 Subjects - Cambridge IGCSEs.
Won GOLD MEDAL in Archery at 2021 Sub Junior State Level Selection Trials

Class XI
Program upgraded to PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated Program (XI-XII)

Class XII
Represented Telangana State at the 40th NTPC Sub Junior National Championships in Archery held at Raipur, India

100 NTA SCORE — Perfect Score 300/300
in JEE Main 2024 (Session-1)

Class XI
Scored '5' in all 3 Advanced Placement (AP) exams and became AP Scholar with distinction

Class XII
One of the 18 archers selected to the 'Khelo India 2023' held in Chennai

Class XI
Received Overall Champion Award & Team Silver Medal at VANDA International Science Olympiad (Singapore)

Class XI
Won GOLD MEDAL in Archery at 2022 Junior State Level Selection Trials

Class XII
Cleared NSEC & NSEA National Standard Examination in Chemistry & Astronomy

Class XII
Got an acceptance from Cambridge University, England

A Hindustani Classical Music Distinction Holder achieves 100 NTA Score in JEE Main 2024

SUCCESS JOURNEY

Madhav Bansal

Student of Four Year Classroom Program (IX - XII) + UDAYA : Two Year Classroom Program (VII - VIII)

Class VI
Dec 2017 - Appeared in FIITJEE's FTRE Test
Date of Enrolment - 27th Jan 2018
Enrolled in FIITJEE's UDAYA - Two Year Classroom Program (VII - VIII)

Class VII
April 2018 - Started Classes at FIITJEE

Class VIII
Got Awarded with a Distinction Certification in Hindustani Rashtriya Sangeet (Enrolled in since 2014)

Class IX
In the year 2020, he joined FIITJEE's Four Year Combined Program (CRP + Integrated School) For Class IX to XII

Class IX
Cleared IOQM (Indian Olympiad Qualifier for Maths) August 2021 - also started his own Youtube Channel

100 NTA SCORE
in JEE Main 2024 (Session-1)

Class XII
Cleared NSEC National Standard Examination in Chemistry

Class XII
Cleared NSEP National Standard Examination in Physics

Class XI
Cleared NSEA National Standard Examination in Astronomy

Class IX
Cleared MVPP 2021 with Rank - 6 (Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha)

Every child deserves Holistic Development leading to Optimum Success & Bliss in Life. Parents, please scan the QR code to know what you should do for your children's career & life. **Very Important. Please do not miss it.**

FIITJEE

31+ YEARS OF INNOVATION, SINCERITY, ETHICS, CONSISTENCY & HARD WORK

FIITJEE Bangalore Classroom Programs Students Excel in JEE Main 2024 (Session 1) **...please turn over**

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ED ATTACK CASE

Trinamool leader Sheikh Shahjahan held

NEWS » PAGE 18

ISRAEL OFFENSIVE

104 killed in strike at aid point in Gaza

WORLD » PAGE 21

ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY REPORT

India sees 8% increase in leopard population

NEWS » PAGE 20

PARLEY

Should MSP be legalised?

Centre has asserted that a legal guarantee will not be possible

OPINION » PAGE 17

Fast and Furious

Scan the QR code or use the link for a video explaining the science and art behind the world-beating Indian pace attack

thlink.in/PaceBowling

NEARBY

Bescom records all-time peak demand for Feb.

BENGALURU
As an indication of the impending situation in peak summer months, the electricity demand in Bescom region peaked at an all-time high of 8,128 MW for the month of February. » PAGE 9

CM promises to end long wait for State film awards

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Thursday that the long-pending Karnataka State Film Awards will soon be given away. He was speaking at the inauguration of the 15th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes). » PAGE 5

METROPLUS » PAGE 11

Six Congress rebel MLAs disqualified in Himachal

They had cross-voted in favour of the BJP in Rajya Sabha elections; disqualified MLAs to move SC; AICC team claims govt. will complete its term, announces a panel to sort out internal differences

Vikas Vasudeva
Sandeep Phukan
CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

Amid the ongoing political turmoil in Himachal Pradesh, six Congress legislators, who had cross-voted in favour of the BJP in the Rajya Sabha elections on February 27, were disqualified from the Assembly by Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania on Thursday.

The ground for disqualification, however, was their absence from the Assembly when the State Budget and the Finance Bill were being put to vote, defying a party whip to vote in favour of the government.

The disqualified MLAs were: Rajinder Rana, Sudhir Sharma, Inder Dutt Lakhanpal, Devinder Kumar Bhutoo, Ravi Thakur and Chetanya Sharma. By evening, the information about their seats lying vacant was put up on the Assembly's website.

Political crisis: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Congress State president Pratibha Singh, and Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in Shimla on Thursday. ANI

'Will move SC'

Mr. Rana, a three-term MLA, said they would move the Supreme Court against the disqualification as many of his colleagues did not even get a proper notice from the Speaker's office.

The motion for disqualification was moved by State Parliamentary Affairs Minister Harshwardhan.

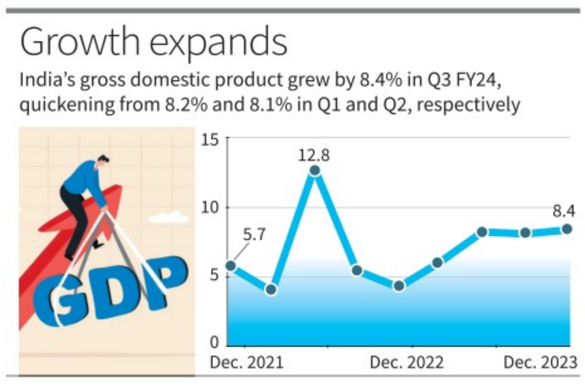
A team of All India Congress Committee (AICC) observers – Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Bhupesh Baghel and D.K. Shivakumar – told the media in Shimla that Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had taken responsibility for Abhishek Singhvi's defeat in the Rajya Sabha elections.

Asserting that the Congress government would complete its term of five years, the AICC observers announced that a six-member coordination committee would be set up to sort out internal differences.

Amid talk of leadership change because of growing complaints from MLAs against Mr. Sukhu's style of functioning, the Chief Minister on Thursday invited party legislators for a breakfast meeting at his official residence.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 18

GDP growth for FY24 pegged at 7.6%



Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Making a flurry of revisions in the economy's growth estimates, the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Thursday raised India's real GDP growth estimate for this year to 7.6% from the 7.3% projected last month. It also scaled down its 7.2% growth estimate for 2022-23 to 7% and raised its 2021-22 estimate from 9.1% to 9.7%.

The Gross Value Added (GVA) in the economy is projected to rise 6.9% this year, with the NSO downgrading last year's GVA growth to 6.7% from 7%. GDP growth for the first two quarters of this year was raised to 8.2% and 8.1%, further rising to 8.4% for the October to December 2023 quarter (Q3).

Economists expressed surprise that GVA growth in Q3 slid to just 6.5% from revised estimates of 8.2% and 7.7% in Q1 and Q2, respectively. Concerns also persisted about private consumption, which grew 3.5% in Q3 from 2.4% in Q2.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 18

Deadline for 60% Kannada usage on signboards extended

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government announced that the deadline for installation of 60% Kannada signage in all commercial establishment has been moved further by two weeks.

Earlier, the deadline was February 28.

On Thursday, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar posted on X: "Considering that it takes time to change the signage, government has decided to extend the deadline given to commercial establishments by two more weeks."

In an order issued on Wednesday, BBMP had announced that if the nameboard rules were violated, the business licence would be suspended and that such commercial establishments would be sealed.

BBMP Budget focuses on shoring up revenue base, infrastructure development

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Budget at a glance

Total expenditure ₹12,369.46 crore	Total receipts ₹12,371.63 crore	Revenue surplus ₹2.17 crore
BBMP's own revenue ₹8,294.04 crore	Central and State government grants ₹4,077.59 crore	

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Budget (2024-25) proposes several policy shifts with the aim of shoring up the civic body's revenue base, besides promising allocation for programmes tagged under the ambitious Brand Bengaluru campaign.

The Budget was presented by Special Commissioner (Finance) Shivananda H. Kalakeri on February 29. This is the fourth consecutive Budget presented by officials in the absence of an elected council since September 2020.

Mr. Kalakeri presented a ₹2.7 crore revenue surplus Budget with an outlay of ₹12,371.63 crore and an estimated expenditure of ₹12,369.46 crore. The key highlight in the outlay is the proposed capital expenditure of ₹6,661 crore, which amounts to 54% of the total Budget.

As acute water shortage has gripped the city, the civic body proposes to drill 1,000 new borewells but, apart from that, does precious little about water conservation.

Brand Bengaluru

The theme is 'Brand Bengaluru', and ₹1,580 crore has been allocated for initiatives with a promise to maintain these funds in an escrow account.

While ₹200 crore was allocated as seed money for building two tunnel roads on a pilot basis, ₹50 crore will go towards building a sky deck – two pet projects of Deputy CM and Bengaluru Development Minister D. K. Shivakumar. Other initiatives championed by him, including 'Hasiru Mitra', 'Hasiru Rakshaka' and 'Udayana Mitra', have found pride of place in the Budget.

The Budget makes significant allocations for roads, including widening roads, developing new roads as proposed in the Revised Master Plan 2015, and two new alternative roads to Kempegowda International Airport. BBMP has allocated ₹300 crore to the ongoing white-topping of roads.

It has opted for Public Private Partnership mode to build optic fibre cable ducts along arterial roads. The civic body is looking to raise ₹2,000 crore through a loan from the World Bank to construct concrete retention walls for stormwater drains.

However, earlier PPP initiatives to build 100 SHE toilets has failed to take off, the budget indicates.

The BBMP will provide ₹1,000 crore for Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Company. It proposes allocating ₹100 crore to purchase four land parcels on the outskirts of Bengaluru to set up integrated waste processing centres.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 15

OBC panel submits caste census report finally

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The long-pending final report of the Socio-economic and Educational Survey (caste census) of Karnataka was submitted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah here on Thursday.

Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes chairman K. Jayaprakash Hegde and its members met the Chief Minister and submitted the report in the presence of Home Minister G. Parameshwara and Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi.

The report includes recommendations made by the commission for the purpose of reservation in education and public employment, besides targeted schemes for communities that remain backward. Sources said that the commission had recommended classifications for castes based on the socio, economic, and educational status of communities.

The caste census report being submitted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah by the commission head K. Jayaprakash Hegde (second from right) in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

While 1,351 castes and sub-castes had been listed out before the survey commenced, the exercise revealed the existence of more than 1,820 castes/sub-castes, the sources said.

More than 400 castes were identified newly in the State, which is owing to migration from other States, and some of which had just about five to ten persons from the community, the sources added.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 15

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The importance of Manpreet in Haryana Steelers' remarkable run

The outspoken and passionate Punjab-born player-turned-coach is thrilled that league will see a new team lifting the trophy in PKL 10

Saikat Chakraborty

Manpreet Singh, the outspoken and passionate coach of Haryana Steelers, has taken the Pro Kabaddi League by storm this season.

After its unexpected win against Jaipur Pink Panthers in the semifinals, Manpreet took to the social media to urge fans for sportsmanship, regardless of the outcome of the match.

A former India International, Manpreet boasts an impressive coaching career in PKL. He previously led Gujarat Fortune Giants (now Gujarat Giants) to two consecutive finals (in seasons five and six), showcasing his strategic prowess. However, guiding the underdog Haryana Steelers to the PKL 10 final could be his crowning achievement, unless he crosses the final hurdle.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

THE GIST

- Manpreet had led Gujarat Fortune Giants (now Gujarat Giants) to two consecutive PKL finals (in seasons five and six)
- The former India international has transformed the Steelers into a defensive powerhouse that has consistently stiflied the opposition raiders.
- The Steelers' coach has acknowledged the unique nature of this season and termed the emergence of young teams as a sign of a shift in kabaddi.

An Unlikely Journey

At the start of the season, the Steelers were considered the least likely to make the playoffs, let alone the final. They lacked experienced players, with the exception of Mohit Nandal and Siddharth Desai.

A heavy defeat in their first match against UP Yoddhas (by 30 points) further solidified this perception. Desai's injury added to the woes, leaving them with a seemingly insurmountable task.

Undeterred, Manpreet transformed the team into a defensive powerhouse. He trusted his young defenders and Nandal's experience, and the Steelers emerged as one of the league's meanest defensive units. Captain Jaideep Dahiya, Nandal, Rahul Sethpal, Ashish, and Mohit formed a formidable wall, consistently stifling opposition raiders.

Grinding Out Success

Unlike their flashy final opponent, Puneri Paltan, the Steelers relied on grit and determination. They defied expectations, grinding out wins and securing a playoff spot.

Despite their limited playoff experience, the Steelers continued their impressive run, cruising past the Giants in the eliminator, to secure their first win in PKL knockouts in their five-year history, before dethroning the Pink Panthers to reach the final.

The Steelers' coach acknowledged the unique nature of this season and termed the emergence of young teams as a sign of a shift in kabaddi.

"Both the finalists consist of young players, which I think is a statement that the game has evolved. Players after their 30s are not able to cope with the speed of the game," he said after the win against the Pink Panthers.

The Punjab-born player-turned-coach also expressed happiness that league will see a new team lifting the trophy. "I'm very happy that this year there will be a new winner, a team will lift the trophy," opined Manpreet.

Manpreet was proud about his team, acknowledging their underdog status after the semifinal win.

"My team had nothing to lose... I'm very happy for my boys, they have played with their hearts and they deserve to play in the final," said the former India international.

While recognising Paltan's strengths, the tactician was confident in his team's abilities and called for the best team to lift the trophy. "Puneri are a brilliant team... In the final, anything can happen, the best team in those 40 minutes will win. We are confident that we'll give our best on the mat."

Defensive prowess

The Steelers' defensive prowess is evident with three of their defenders – Sethpal, Dahiya, and Nandal – ranking among the top 10 in the league for tackle points.

However, as Dahiya, the team's 'Virender Sehwag' for his aggressive playing style, emphasised, "individual numbers don't matter, all that matters is the team is winning,"

The defender also credited his coach for the success of the team. "Manpreet *paaji* is more of a brother to us than a coach. He helps us a lot in terms of understanding the game and motivates us to play fearlessly," Dahiya said ahead of the final.

With a passionate coach, a determined team, and a strong defensive foundation, Haryana Steelers are ready to create history in the PKL 10 final.

Puneri Paltan's adoption of a daring, unique style redefines the sport

Saikat Chakraborty

More than just contenders in the Pro Kabaddi League Season 10, finalist Puneri Paltan is transforming the sport itself. The team ditched traditional tactics, adopting a fresh and innovative style that sets it apart. This bold approach comes after a gut-wrenching loss in last year's PKL final, prompting it to re-strategise and rise as a force to reckon with.

In its quest for the maiden PKL title, coach B.C. Ramesh made a daring move at the season 10 auction. Paltan bid farewell to seasoned Iranian duo of Fazel Atrachali and Mohammad Nabibakhsh and welcomed the versatile Mohammadreza Chiyaneh. The captaincy reins were entrusted to Aslam Mustafa Inamdar, a young talent in his third PKL season, symbolising a commitment to youth.

Paltan topped the league on their way to the semifinal, winning 17 out of 22 matches with an impressive score difference of 253 (the top two teams in league stage automatically make the semifinals while the remaining four battle it out in playoffs). And in the semifinal, Paltan brushed aside Patna Pirates 37-21 to reach the second consecutive final.

"We've played our brand of kabaddi throughout the tournament, and it's brought us success. We won't change our approach for the final. My boys are ready for the challenge," declared Paltan's coach in the post-match press conference following their semifinal victory over Pirates.

Puneri Paltan is showcasing a unique style of kabaddi, where every player seamlessly transitions between offence and defence. Led by the dynamic Aslam Inamdar, raiders like Mohit Goyat and Pankaj Mohite actively contribute to the team's defensive capabilities, often catching opponents off guard with their anticipation and cover skills.

The team's offensive duty is well distributed, moving away from relying on a single raider, keeping the opposition uncertain.

"When a raider goes for a raid, he's alone, but in defence, the entire team can work as a unit. If all seven players are together, it makes it difficult for the opposition raiders to score. Relying on one or two main raiders makes things very predictable. Their off day can ruin the chances of the team," Ramesh earlier in the season explained his team's approach to *The Hindu*.

Leading the charge for Puneri Paltan with his all-around talent is captain Aslam Inamdar. A key player in India's successful Asian Kabaddi Championship and Asian Games campaigns in 2023, Inamdar boasts an impressive record of 139 raid points and 25 tackle points this season.

Defensive dominance

Paltan boasts the league's most coordinated defensive unit, emphasizing teamwork. The Pune-based team has the best defensive record in PKL 10, with a tackle success rate of 55.04% and a total of 340 tackle points from 322 successful tackles, averaging 14.78 tackle points per match.

Paltan has also inflicted the most all-outs (45) and conceded the least (14) compared to all other 11 teams in the league. This kind of dominance is unheard of in the annals of PKL.

One of the key players in Puneri Paltan's defence is vice-captain and left-corner, Chiyaneh. The flamboyant Iranian is leading the individual defensive leaderboard with a staggering 97 tackle points, putting him just four points shy of the PKL record for most tackle points by a defender in a single season. "Shadloui (Chiyaneh) is a brilliant defender and all-rounder. He's always hungry on the mat, and I'm constantly learning from him. He's a young guy and very hungry to make a mark in the sport. He's been very consistent scoring over 80 points in the last two seasons," said Inamdar ahead of the final.

Despite being a well-rounded player for his national team, Chiyaneh hasn't had many opportunities to raid in the PKL 10. However, he showcases his explosive raiding skills whenever he gets a chance. This Iranian powerhouse has already accumulated 27 raid points.

Stepping onto the mat at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium for the finale on Friday, Paltan will put their new, game-changing approach to the ultimate test.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

8 FIITJEE Students achieve an overall 100 NTA Score in JEE Main 2024

Session 1

Sriyashas Mohan Kalluri — Perfect Score 300/300
Student of Four Year Classroom Program (IX - XII), upgraded to PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated Program (XI - XII)

Aarav Bhatt — Perfect Score 300/300
Student of Three Year Classroom Program (X - XII)

Madhav Bansal
Student of Four Year Classroom Program (IX - XII) + UDAYA : Two Year Classroom Program (VII - VIII)

Ipsit Mittal
Student of Three Year Classroom Program (X - XII)

Thota Sai Karthik
Student of SUPREME - Four Year Integrated Program (IX - XII)

Gajare Nilkrishna Nirmalkumar
Student of All India Test Series (XII)

Himanshu Thalor
Student of Rankers Study Material (XII)

Ishaan Gupta
Student of Rankers Study Material (XI - XII)

JEE Main 2024 Results* from FIITJEE Bangalore Centre

*Session 1

NTA Score 99.96

Tanmay Arya Rajeevalochana
Student of Two Year Classroom Program (XI - XII)
at FIITJEE Bangalore Centre

Hello
My Name is Tanmay Arya and I had enrolled in 2 year classroom program at FIITJEE HSR Layout. From the Begining the faculty here have been very encouraging. The packages for each chapter extensively covered each topic from JEE Mains to JEE Advanced. Phase Tests, Monthly tests, AITS, AI^{2}TS helped boost my preparation

I would Recommend FIITJEE to anyone who wants to secure a top engineering college.

Tan

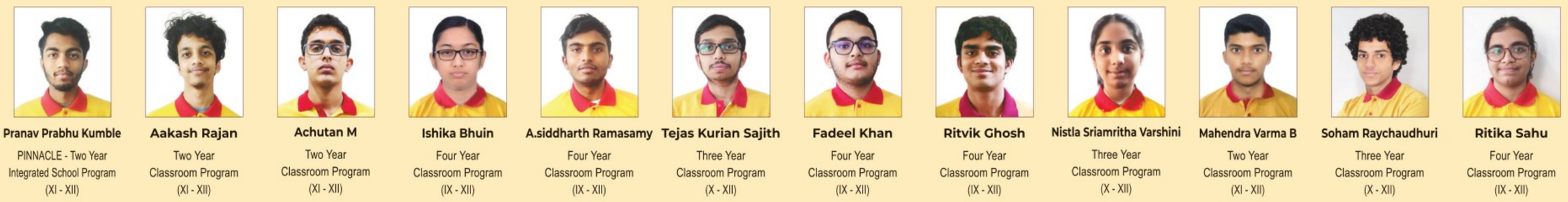
NTA Score 99.93

Aditya
Student of Two Year Classroom Program (XI - XII)
at FIITJEE Bangalore Centre

I am Aditya, Student of FIITJEE Bangalore since 2 years. I joined FIITJEE to prepare thoroughly for JEE Main and JEE Advanced Examinations.
The teachers here are extremely supportive. They help us find and rectify our mistakes and always motivate us to perform better. The conceptual clarity they provide in all the subjects is definitely of the highest order.
The test series conducted by FIITJEE, including AI^{2}TS, AITS, Phase tests, are challenging and help us properly assess ourselves. In my perspective, the mock tests were the most important factors in helping me improve my accuracy and exam temperament.

Aditya

Other Top Scorers (from Classroom Programs) in JEE Main 2024 (session 1) from FIITJEE Bangalore Centre



99.87 NTA Score — **Pranav Prabhu Kumble**
PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program (XI - XII)

99.81 NTA Score — **Aakash Rajan**
Two Year Classroom Program (XI - XII)

99.78 NTA Score — **Achutan M**
Two Year Classroom Program (XI - XII)

99.77 NTA Score — **Ishika Bhuin**
Four Year Classroom Program (IX - XII)

99.70 NTA Score — **A.siddharth Ramasamy**
Four Year Classroom Program (IX - XII)

99.65 NTA Score — **Tejas Kurian Sajith**
Three Year Classroom Program (X - XII)

99.64 NTA Score — **Fadeel Khan**
Four Year Classroom Program (IX - XII)

99.62 NTA Score — **Ritvik Ghosh**
Four Year Classroom Program (IX - XII)

99.60 NTA Score — **Nistla Sriamritha Varshini**
Three Year Classroom Program (X - XII)

99.47 NTA Score — **Mahendra Varma B**
Two Year Classroom Program (XI - XII)

99.37 NTA Score — **Soham Raychaudhuri**
Three Year Classroom Program (X - XII)

99.25 NTA Score — **Ritika Sahu**
Four Year Classroom Program (IX - XII)

17 Classroom Programs Students from FIITJEE Bangalore Centre secure 99 or better NTA Score

Read the TRUTH behind results of other coaching institute(s)

1. When an institute claims a student as "Classroom Student", it means nothing unless exact details of the program are given. They can purchase a student & claim the result as Classroom Program without even teaching or the institute could have taught the student only for a day or few hours and yet claim them as Classroom Student. There is no legal definition for a student to be claimed as Classroom student. Writing this is hiding facts and who hides facts ? Incompetent ones, cheats & criminals. Right ?
2. Now that the results of JEE Main 2024 are out, the EVIL Institute will be out to further buy toppers from other Institutes just like the past.
3. Almost all suicides of young children preparing for Medical & Engineering Entrance Exams are happening in KOTA only. Most of these (almost all) suicides are by students of this EVIL Institute. Have you ever thought why only students from Kota commit suicide and that too mainly from this institute ? Because they feel disillusioned. Why they feel so ? Because the institute bothers only about money and sells with fraud results. This institute will admit any student who even after 2, 3, or 4 years of sustained dedicated & sincere efforts will not qualify NEET or JEE Advanced because the student just didn't have the aptitude for these exams. The hapless children feel let down, lose confidence, & commit suicide. And they pretend to be spiritual. This is a classic filmy case where a villain loots in the garb of a saint.
दुर्जनः प्रियवादीति नैतद् विश्वासकारणम् | मधुतिष्ठति जिव्हाग्रे हृदये तु हलाहलम् ||
4. Owing to severe criticism by media and parents & students, KOTA is crashing. EVIL is under huge stress of survival & is trying to survive by expanding to other cities bringing the same KOTA culture responsible for suicides of children. There is no difference between the way they operate & the way a hardened criminal like Dawood Ibrahim will operate if he was to start JEE & Medical Coaching.
5. Parents lured by this EVIL Institute have damaged future of their children. Every single student thus poached by the EVIL has underperformed. Parents, your ignorance may cause stress, tension, and irreparable injury to your child's career & life. Scan the QR code to know what parents should do for their children. **Very important. Please do not miss it.**

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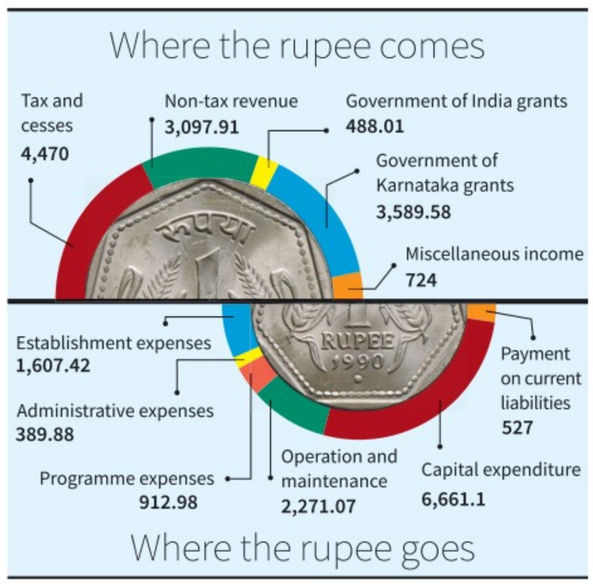


New property tax structure, ad policy likely to up revenue streams for BBMP

Civic body aims to raise ₹8,272 cr. through new revenue streams in 2024-25; it will get ₹4,077 cr. this year via grants from State and Union govts.

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Bengaluru's civic body has reworked its property tax structure and is all set to introduce multiple policies to increase revenue streams through which it aims to raise ₹8,272.74 crore in 2024-25, the highest if this target is achieved.

This has reduced the share of grants by the State and Union governments in the total civic Budget outlay to 32.9%, down from 37% last year. The civic body will get ₹4,077.59 crore this year via grants from the State and Union governments.

The focus of the Budget is on consolidating the revenue base, and exploring new innovative options like premium FAR to increase revenue streams.

The new guidance value-based property tax structure will come into force on April 1, 2024. The civic body is hoping to rake in revenue through the One Time Settlement (OTS) under which interest will be waived off for arrears that are paid by July 31. The penalty has also been halved.

BBMP Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, Special Commissioner Rakesh Singh, and Special Commissioner Shivananda H. Kalakeri during the BBMP Budget presentation in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

"This will benefit 15 lakh taxpayers. All these amendments are expected to bring in people who remained outside the tax net," said Special Commissioner (Finance) Shivananda H. Kalakeri who presented the Budget. BBMP expects to generate ₹322 crore from penalties and interest on property tax arrears this year.

The property tax target for 2024-25 is ₹4,470 crore, 26% higher than the revised estimates for 2023-24, but only marginally higher than the actual target set in the previous Budget.

In 2023-24 Budget, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had set a target of ₹4,462.5 crore, but is estimated to achieve only 80% of that despite a special drive to collect property tax arrears and catch tax evaders. The target has now been revised to ₹3,535 crore.

In 2022-23 as well, BBMP had reached only 80% of its targeted property tax collection.

The civic body is looking to diversify its revenue base and is aiming to generate ₹1,500 crore from a new ad policy and selling Premium Floor Area Ratio (FAR) in Bengaluru.

A new BBMP Advertisement Policy through BBMP Advertisement Rules, 2024, will be promulgated soon, and is expected to generate ₹500 crore revenue in 2024-25. The policy, which will be on the lines of the Advertisement Policy of New Delhi Municipal Corporation that was upheld by the Supreme Court, will permit a rational, transparent and regulated system of commercial and self-advertisements.

BBMP has announced that an online portal will be developed to manage all advertisement related issues. BBMP aims to mobilise ₹1,000 crore by selling Premium FAR across Bengaluru. An amendment to this effect to the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961 was recently passed by the State Assembly. The civic body has assured citizens that it will develop an online exchange for Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) to facilitate sale and purchase of TDR online.

The civic body also intends to introduce BBMP Estate Management Rules 2024, to better manage and monetise its assets.

Revenue of BBMP (in ₹crore)	Revised Estimates (2023-24)	Budget Estimates (2024-25)
Property tax	3,000	3,800
Cess	535	670
Total	3,535	4,470
Interest on arrears of property tax	200	222
Penalties and fines on property tax	45	100
Total	3,780	4,792
New advertisement policy	—	500
Premium FAR	—	1,000

Khata regularisation

Even as the civic Budget estimates revenue from diverse new schemes and policies, a word of caution is in order, the revised estimates for 2023-24 reveal. BBMP had estimated a one-time revenue of ₹1,100 crore from Khata Regularisation Scheme – conversion of B khata to A khata after collecting a betterment charge and fine – in 2023-24, but the scheme never took off due to legal hurdles, punching a big hole in the Budget estimates.

SNIPPETS

Separate OFC ducts

A separate OFC cable duct path will be created under revenue sharing model with private partnership under digital Bengaluru. The budget has allocated ₹2 crore for the same.

₹50 crore for heritage

The BBMP has allocated ₹50 crore for the Kempegowda Development Authority with the aim to join hands with the authority in its work to revive heritage values like houses, inscriptions, relics, and burial sites of his birthplace Magadi.

Aadhaar seeding of records

In order to bring transparency and security to the BBMP property records, Aadhaar seeding in records will be done in a campaign mode on a voluntary basis.

The owners who opt for Aadhaar seeding will get multiple benefits such as added security of their properties, secure and automated mutations when the Aadhaar-based transactions are done at sub-registrar offices.

Climate Action Plan

To take up several projects under Climate Action Plan ₹10 crore will be given through the climate action cell and other stakeholder agencies to build resilience against climate change hazards such as flooding, urban heat, water scarcity and air pollution.

Immunisation at doorstep

Twenty-seven e-vehicles (1 per constituency) under 'Mane Bagilige Chuchhu Maddu' shall be made functional to improve immunisation and cover last mile coverage. The vaccine on wheels will come to your door step to vaccinate.

2 new burial grounds

Construction of new burial grounds and crematoriums will be undertaken and upgradation of existing burial ground and crematoriums will also be done. A sum of ₹15 crore will be allocated for the same.

Infrastructure gets lion's share in outlay

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BBMP Budget has proposed to spend a large portion of capital expenditure on infrastructure development, including road infrastructure in an aim to ease traffic congestion in the city.

For the ambitious tunnel road project, the Budget has allocated ₹200 crore and a pilot tunnel will be built in two high-traffic density areas. However, places have not been identified yet.

The BBMP has proposed to widen the connecting road from Kanakapura Main Road to Bannerghatta Main Road and the road from Hennur to Bagaluru connecting Kempegowda International Airport. Besides, the BBMP is also developing Padarayanapura road in Chamarajpet. For the same, ₹130 crore is set aside in the Budget. The Budget has also allocated ₹50 crore towards the skydeck project.

For the ambitious tunnel road project, the Budget has allocated ₹200 crore. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Budget has also proposed to acquire and develop lands on TDR basis to build alternate routes to Kempegowda International Airport from Ballari Road (Sadahalli Gate) via Begur and another road from Sathanur Meesaganahalli. Also, to build a railway overbridge in collaboration with the Railway Department to connect the Kengeri Suburb with Mysuru Road, a DPR will be prepared, it said.

Under the Sancharayukta roads project, the buffer area of rajakaluves on the outskirts of the city have been acquired on TDR basis and it is now proposed to construct road lanes for light vehicular traffic and cycle lanes on both the sides. A total distance of 300 km of roads will be undertaken at an estimated cost of ₹600 crore over a period of three years.

Under the Sugama Sanchara scheme, it is proposed to undertake white-topping of 145 km of roads over a period of two years and ₹300 crore has been set aside for this.

Under the Clean Air Scheme, ₹135 crore has been allocated to build long pedestrian friendly walkways of 45 km.

Elections needed to strengthen Brand Bengaluru

GUEST COLUMN

Srinivas Alavilli

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is a major contributor to Karnataka and India and yet, it is short-changed when it comes to funds. Unless a State Finance Commission works out a revenue sharing formula, all cities and villages in Karnataka will be at the mercy of the State government for grants instead of a fair share of tax revenues.

That's not an excuse for the BBMP to not strengthen its own finances, and this Budget clearly shows that BBMP is going all out to make the most of the limited opportunities it has - premium FAR, advertising policy, rationalising property tax are all efforts to bring in more revenue.

It is a pleasant surprise to see the intent to decentralise governance at zonal and ward level. It is impossible to govern a city of 1.4 crore population, larger than many countries in the world, in a centralised model. The continued allocation of ₹2 crore to each of the 225 wards, of which ₹25 lakh is earmarked for footpaths, ₹30 lakh for drains, ₹15 lakh for potholes is much appreciated. BBMP has been taking this progressive measure for the last three years to devolve funds at ward level so decisions can be made locally on projects that can be undertaken in the year.

However, as the ward committee meetings have now all but disappeared, it's not clear how citizens can participate. The Budget says Zonal Committees and Ward Committees will be empowered to take decisions but without BBMP elections, these are meaningless. It is imperative that the State government holds BBMP elections immediately, so that zonal committees and ward committees can come to life, not to mention, the Council itself and 225 councillors who can be held accountable by the citizens.

Regardless, the outer wards of BBMP deserve a lot more than ₹2 crore as the infrastructure gaps relative to core city areas are huge and cannot be ignored.

The Budget gives a much needed boost for Indira Canteens which we need a lot more of.

Instead of decentralised processing of waste within the city limits, the approach seems to be about buying land around Bengaluru to set up four plants. The goal should have been to reduce the distance garbage needs to travel by localizing the processing having seen the horrors of Mandur and Mavallipura. Brand Bengaluru shines when everyone segregates waste at source and ward level composting and dry waste processing units get established. We need to rethink our approach in this regard.

The big news is Climate Action Cell to coordinate activities under Bengaluru Climate Action Plan with ₹10 crore funds and various actions have been listed. Though this is a small step it is significant as we now have a commitment to meet our goals.

Bengaluru City Comprehensive Mobility Plan seems to be yet another comprehensive mobility plan; we already have a Comprehensive Mobility Plan and it is unclear what this plan is expected to do without a Master Plan for the city. BBMP has a limited role in planning mobility of the city and the right organization for any mobility plan is Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority.

(The author is a civic activist)

Proposal to revamp Sahaya

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Budget has proposed revamping of the entire Sahaya - the Public Grievance System - by setting up a dedicated call centre to call back the citizens and take their feedback on the disposal claimed by various departments of the BBMP.

In case the feedback is unsatisfactory, then the ticket or grievance will be kept open.

Contact-Less and Face-Less citizen service delivery for BBMP services will be the theme and every possible service will be brought to this CLFL platform to achieve transparency and empowerment of citizens.

The Budget has also proposed to make mobile as a preferred service delivery platform and as many services and interfaces as possible will be brought on the mobile platform.

The Budget has proposed the strengthening of IT and computer systems of all the field offices of the BBMP.

50 new Indira Canteens, old age homes, and night shelter for transgenders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indira Canteens that had lost its sheen over the last few years are all set to make a comeback. Shortly after the civic body called for tenders worth ₹150 crore to revamp Indira Canteens with a new menu, the Budget presented on Thursday announced that 50 new Indira Canteens will be built at a cost of ₹70 crore, including at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) and BBMP head office.

The civic Budget proposes to build one 'Shravana Vasathi Old Age Home' and a 'Savitri Vasathi Hostel' named after Savitribai Phule for working women in every zone. Eight old age homes and eight working women hostels will come up. The Budget also proposes to build a night shelter dedicated to transgenders and revamp 48 existing night shelters in the city. The Budget also allocates ₹10 crore to fund 50% of the project cost or up to ₹1.5 lakh to transgenders and other economically backward classes to start small enterprises.

Last year, the civic body announced that they will build 100 SHE toilets in public private partnership. However, private players did not come forward over viability issues due to ban on hoardings over these toilets.

This has prompted the civic body to build 50 SHE toilets from its own resources this year.

The BBMP has also proposed to build "Pink Rooms" to make sanitary napkins and restrooms available for women during menstruation at bus stations, malls, and toilets.

For the first time, BBMP has launched a new welfare scheme to distribute e-scooters to working women and pourakarmikas and has earmarked ₹12 crore in the Budget for the purpose.

₹100 crore set aside to buy land for waste processing units

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Budget, with emphasis on Solid Waste Management, has set aside ₹100 crore to purchase four parcels of land measuring 50 to 100 acres to set up Integrated Waste Processing Centres (IWPC).

With setting up of IWPCs, the BBMP aims to process waste on the outskirts of Bengaluru to keep the foul smell away from the city.

The Budget said to make Bengaluru a clean city, Integrated Solid Waste Management Comprehensive Action Plan will focus on collection, transportation and processing to be handled by a single agency.

For BSWML

In the Budget, the BBMP has proposed to allocate ₹1,000 crore for Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd. (BSWML) for collection, segregation of waste, development of landfilling sites and maintenance of solid waste treatment.

The BBMP aims to process waste on the outskirts of Bengaluru to keep the foul smell away from the city. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

The BBMP will select 250 households to convert raw waste into compost at their own houses. A comprehensive solid waste management system will be implemented at Ramanashree Layout in Begur for a period of one year as a pilot project.

Filling up posts

Action will be taken to fill up 3,673 posts of pourakarmikas through direct recruitment and 11,307 posts of supernumerary pourakarmikas.

The Budget has set aside ₹135 crore for the pension scheme under which retired civic workers under direct payment will receive pension from this year. The BBMP has also proposed to provide ₹5 lakh subsidy to the pourakarmikas under the housing scheme for construction of homes.

Despite policy backing and funding, care for rare diseases not optimal

World Rare Diseases Day gives us a chance to reflect; despite the pace of development in the recent past, it is important to evaluate the needs of the community. It is also important to evaluate policy against implementation, to see if the goals are being achieved and target groups are benefiting

Ramya Kannan

An event held to create public awareness on rare diseases, in Mysuru on February 25, 2024. SRIRAM MA

In the field of rare diseases, in India, what did not happen for 20 years, was dramatically hustled through over the last couple of years. Consider this: the first National Policy on Rare Diseases was issued in March 2021, providing a comprehensive national approach to prevention and management of rare diseases. It was nearly a dream come true for patients living with rare diseases and their families – the policy also factors in ways to lower the exorbitant cost of treatment, and boost indigenous research. The policy also envisages the creation of a national hospital based registry of rare diseases, an intervention as crucial as funding for treatment itself, as it will provide rich epidemiological data to define the extent of the problem in India and decide optimal funding for research in rare diseases too. The Rare Diseases Policy also focuses on creation of Nidan Kendras for early screening and prevention, as well as plans to strengthen extant secondary and tertiary health facilities at Centres of Excellence.

And yet, this World Rare Diseases Day (February 29) does give us occasion for pause; despite the stupendous pace of development in the recent past, it is important to periodically evaluate the needs in the community, and tailor requirements to meet those demands. It is also important to evaluate policy against implementation, to see if the goals are being achieved and the target groups benefiting from the intended gains.

What is a rare disease?

But first, a bird's eye view of the rare diseases scenario here: In India, it is estimated that there are between 7,000 - 8,000 rare diseases, but less than 5% have therapies available to treat them. But, taken as a whole, rare diseases affect nearly 1/5th of India's population, educated extrapolations indicate. A rare disease is one that is loosely defined as occurring infrequently in the population, and as such, what constitutes a rare disease varies from nation to nation. The World Health Organisation defines rare disease as an often debilitating lifelong disease or disorder with a prevalence of 1 or less, per 1,000 population.

However, different countries have their own definitions to suit their specific requirements and in the context of their own population, health care system and resources. For instance, in the U.S., rare diseases are defined as a disease or condition that affects fewer than 200,000 patients in the country (6.4 in 10,000 people). The European Union has its own definition – affecting no more than 5 in 10,000 people. India currently does not have a standard definition – but the Organisation of Rare Diseases – India, has suggested that a disease is to be defined as rare if it affects 1 in 5,000 people or less. The National Policy statement itself lays out: The landscape of rare diseases is constantly changing, as there are new rare diseases and conditions being identified and reported regularly in medical literature. Apart from a few rare diseases, where significant progress has been made, the field is still at a nascent stage.

Notwithstanding the rather significant developments, and a number of patients benefiting, the progress on the field still is at an infantile stage. The Union Government in May 2022 had allocated ₹50 lakh per patient for the treatment of all rare diseases across the country. How well was that utilised? We did not know until recently when Sashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament raised a question in the Lok Sabha, during the budget session, about the number of Rare Diseases patients enrolled with the Centres of Excellence across the country, and the details of the allocation and utilisation of funds by the different Centres of Excellence across the country during the last three years and till date, year-wise. The answer was quite disappointing. As per the data shared in response to the question, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare disbursed to all the Centres of Excellence a sum of approximatey ₹109 crore in the last three years. However, the total funds utilised so far is only approximately ₹53 crore. A whopping 51.3% of the total funds allocated are still sitting pretty, while patients are losing lives with no access to treatment. There are now 12 Centres of Excellence, and of the 11 centres that data is available for, only three CoEs have utilised over 90% of the funds allotted to them, and one Centre in the honourable mention, late 80 percentile mark.

Underutilisation of funds

Clearly the CoEs are not compelled by the sense of urgency that patients desperately seeking avenues for funding life-saving treatment are. Manjit Singh, founder and president of the Lysosomal Storage Disorder Support Society says: "The underutilisation of allocated funds and the plight of patients who have exhausted their treatment allocations underscores the critical need for action. By advocating for these key initiatives, we aim to catalyse change, driving the CoEs to prioritise rare disease treatment and securing long-term funding support from the government for those in need."

Speaking on behalf of patients, he adds: "We are driven by a dual mandate - to build urgency among Centers of Excellence (CoEs) for the immediate treatment of all eligible patients and to demand sustainable funding for Group 3 conditions. We believe that every rare disease patient deserves timely access to life-saving treatments, and we are committed to ensuring that this becomes a reality. Our efforts are not just about improving access to care; they are about saving lives and empowering individuals to lead fulfilling, meaningful lives despite the challenges posed by rare diseases. Also, the state governments need to pitch in here through budgetary allocations specifically for the treatment of eligible rare disease patients."

> Gynaecologists and paediatricians are more aware about rare diseases, and people have started looking at birth defects, more clearly and having genetic screening performed

The key asks of rare diseases patient advocacy groups, among the strongest lobbies in the health care sector now, are to build urgency on the part of the CoEs to start treatment of all eligible patients and build a continuum of care with sustainable funding support for conditions that necessitate long term care and treatment, classified by the National Policy as Group 3 diseases.

There are, reportedly, 10 patients, children, from across the country who have already exhausted their ₹50 lakh allotment, and are currently running from pillar to post seeking continuation of their treatment. These patients need sustainable funding and continued treatment support to survive and lead normal lives.

Screening for disease

S. Suresh, managing director of Mediscan, is a senior radiologist who pioneered the argument for genetic testing for rare diseases, with a rare, nearly evangelical zeal. Two decades ago, he had made the point that it was important to set up pre-natal scan centres in the public health set up, to take the possibility of early detection, already available in the private sector, to the larger public. He acknowledges with relief that finally, an epidemiological transition might have happened.

The change came with awareness generation and really hard work by advocacy groups. Organisations and parents put effort and energy into this, taking the battles to the courts and the streets. Gynaecologists and paediatricians are more aware about rare diseases, and people have started looking at birth defects, doing gene testing etc, besides vastly improved neonatal intensive care unit services in hospitals across the country leading to earlier and more accurate detection. What's left, is to take care of the patient, he adds.

Not just that. Dr. Suresh has also been advocating for a national registry that people can report rare diseases to. "The list of rare diseases needs to be really clarified. But that is a tall order, we possibly will never be able to put all rare diseases inside. The most common ones, which are reported periodically, should be there in the list. But the registry would be a starting point at least."

It will have a registered cohort of rare diseases detected across the country and will be able to provide an idea of the geographic distribution of rare diseases. In addition to this, he is pushing the envelope on setting up a single centralised laboratory for detection of rare diseases for the entire country that will be able to perform enzyme assays and molecular genetic testing.

"The knowledge we will gain from this will be top class, even of inestimable value," Dr. Suresh says.

While a hospital-based National Registry for Rare Diseases has been initiated by the Indian Council for Medical Research by involving centres that are involved in diagnosis and management of rare diseases, it needs to be pushed through and actualised, he adds.

Through example, he is also trying to promote another model for delivery of care for children suffering from rare diseases.

At the Voluntary Health Services hospital, in Chennai, which he heads, plans are afoot to establish a comprehensive centre with multiple experts to take care of the child for a few days at a stretch, so that the primary care giver can have some downtime.

"Once there is a child with a rare disease, one of the parents is completely tied to the child. In most cases, it is the mother. It is only fair that we give them some respite for a day or two, so that someone else, can take over the care of the child for those days. We are trying to establish such a centre at VHS, we already have a rehabilitation centre, paediatric palliative care unit, and along with that, we want to build capacity for a multi-speciality clinic that can provide this respite to the mothers. Besides, it will also help forming a support group among parents, and be one centre where we can examine the patients and chart up plans tailored to each child's (and caregivers') requirements," he says.

(ramya.kannan@thehindu.co.in)

ASHAs conduct a rally to raise awareness among people on the importance of polio drops, in Vijayawada on February 29, 2024.. K.V.S. GIRI

Experts suggest ASHA-like cadre for mental healthcare

Serena Joesphine M.

Could the south of India see the repurposing of the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) into a community health worker who is paid, not incentivised, and can provide support to persons discharged from a psychiatric facility? Or can a similar cadre be created to take up community mental healthcare?

Vikram Patel, Paul Farmer Professor and Chair, Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School and R. Thara, vice chairperson, Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF), explored the possibility of having a cadre similar to ASHAs to take community mental healthcare forward. Noting that he had visited many District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) sites around the country, Dr. Patel said that DMHP was purely a medication programme. "There is nothing community – based, and no rehabilitation," he said. There is no psychosocial intervention, added Dr. Thara.

Elaborating on community mental health, Dr. Thara said it meant involving the local community; all community stakeholders – teachers, doctors, panchayat leaders or tahsildars. "We have trained a number of community-level workers, mostly women. They have empathy, they have acceptance in the community, and if you train them, they play an excellent role in detection, in facilitating care and follow-up, and delivering some psychosocial intervention. We have ASHAs, but you cannot overburden them, but we can have a similar cadre of health workers," she said.

It is important to identify an existing cadre of women – whatever name they go by in every State – and get them to do mental health work

SCARF started '*Manam Inidhu*', a programme in which women from self help groups were trained in the basic principles of mental health and counselling. If they came across persons with mild symptoms, they took them to a counsellor or to the DMHP, she said.

Dr. Patel observed: "The (Indian) government is among the first governments in the world to embrace the community health worker movement, and on a massive scale. It is an environment ready for a change. We could say that maternal, new born and child health (MNCH) issues, which dominated the ASHA movement, are no longer major concerns. Lets say Tamil Nadu does not need ASHAs for maternal and child health, Kerala does not need it, and Karnataka probably does not either. So, could the south of India see the repurposing of the ASHA into a community health worker who is paid, not incentivised....Could these States pioneer this kind of support such that every person who is discharged from a psychiatric facility – whether in the public or private sector – based on where they live, is allocated a local community health worker to support them?"

Dr. Thara said it was important to identify an existing cadre of women – whatever name they go by in every State – and get them to do mental health work.

Agreeing that asking ASHAs to do more without taking something off their plate would not work, Dr. Patel said: "For now, let's say someone like ASHA. The southern States are in the best place as the disease burden profile has almost moved to non communicable diseases. Therefore, the ASHA or frontline workers' best place now is to manage chronic conditions."

(serena.m@thehindu.co.in)

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

How well acquainted are you with your face?

Anjali Srivastava

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

_____ is the strongest muscle in the human body relative to its size and is located in the jaw. What is the name of this powerful jaw muscle?

QUESTION 2

While our nose and ears continue to grow throughout our lives, there's a part of our face that maintains the same size from birth. Which facial feature defies the growth pattern and remains constant in size?

QUESTION 3

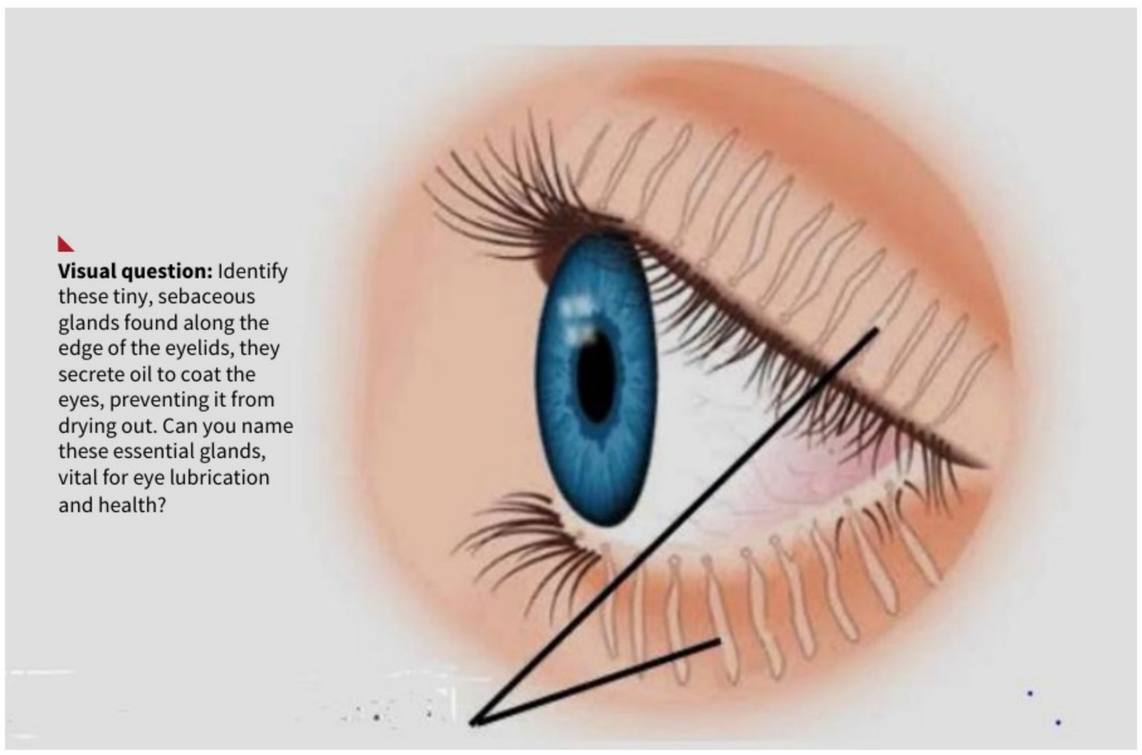
What is the only muscle in the human body that is attached at only one end?

QUESTION 4

The human face has various muscles responsible for facial expressions. What is the term for the muscle that surrounds the eyes and is often referred to as the "crow's feet muscle" due to its activation during smiling?

QUESTION 5

Humans are capable of producing a wide range of facial expressions, and one muscle is essential for creating smiles. Which muscle, often associated with happiness, is responsible for elevating the corners of the mouth?



Visual question: Identify these tiny, sebaceous glands found along the edge of the eyelids, they secrete oil to coat the eyes, preventing it from drying out. Can you name these essential glands, vital for eye lubrication and health?

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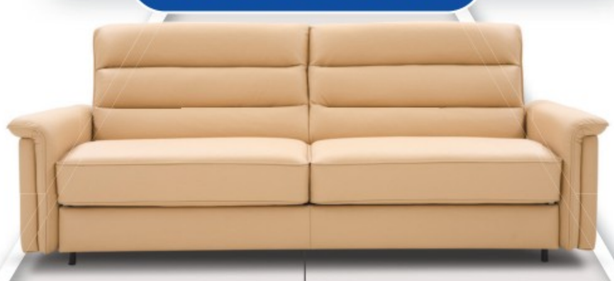

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The number of junior doctors on strike in South Korea

10,000 About 80% of the trainee workforce protested against government plans to sharply increase medical school admissions. AFP

The athletes expected to be part of the 2024 Paris Olympics

14,500 The keys to the Paris 2024 athletes' village were officially handed to the Olympics organisers as President Emmanuel Macron visited the site. REUTERS

The investment for a semiconductor plant in India

15.2 In $ billion. India approved the setting up of three chip-making units taking the country a step closer to its goal of becoming an electronics powerhouse. REUTERS

The worth of Poland's defence agreement with the U.S.

2.5 In $ billion. Poland signed an agreement with the U.S. for the delivery of an integrated anti-aircraft and anti-missile defence command system. Poland is spending 4% of its GDP on defence this year. REUTERS

Palestinians shot dead for rushing toward aid trucks

50 The incident added to a Palestinian death toll that topped 30,000 in nearly five months of war. The Israeli army said it was checking reports of the incident. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On cross-voting in Rajya Sabha elections

Why were six Congress MLAs who cross-voted in the Himachal Pradesh Rajya Sabha elections disqualified from the State's Legislative Assembly? What does the Tenth Schedule specify? Why is an open ballot used during Rajya Sabha elections?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan.R

The story so far:
The Rajya Sabha elections in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka witnessed cross-voting by MLAs belonging to different parties. This has once again raised concerns about the sanctity of the election process.

How are Rajya Sabha elections held?
As per Article 80 of the Constitution, representatives of each State to the Rajya Sabha are elected indirectly by the elected members of their Legislative Assembly. The polls for Rajya Sabha will be required only if the number of candidates exceed the number of vacancies. In fact, till 1998, the outcome of Rajya Sabha elections were usually a foregone conclusion. The candidates nominated by various parties, according to their strength in the Assembly, used to be elected unopposed. However, the June 1998 Rajya Sabha elections in Maharashtra witnessed cross-voting that resulted in the loss of a Congress party candidate.

In order to rein in the MLAs from such cross-voting, an amendment to the Representation of the People Act, 1951 was carried out in 2003. Section 59 of the Act was amended to provide that the voting in elections to Rajya Sabha shall be through an open ballot. The MLAs of political parties are required to show their ballot paper to the authorised agent of their Party. Not showing the ballot paper to the authorised agent or showing it to anyone else will disqualify the vote. Independent MLAs are barred from showing their ballots to anyone.

What does the Tenth Schedule state?
The 52nd constitutional amendment introduced the 'anti-defection' law through the Tenth Schedule in 1985. This Schedule provides that a member of a House of Parliament or State legislature who voluntarily gives up the membership of their political party or votes against the instructions of their party in a House are liable for disqualification from such House. This instruction with respect to voting is issued by the 'whip' of a party.

In a crossfire: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu casts his vote for the Rajya Sabha Elections in Shimla on February 27. ANI

However, the elections to Rajya Sabha are not treated as a proceeding within the Legislative Assembly. The Election Commission, drawing reference to Supreme Court judgments, had issued a clarification in July 2017. It specified that the provisions of the Tenth Schedule, with respect to voting against the instruction of the party, will not be applicable for a Rajya Sabha election. Furthermore, political parties cannot issue any 'whip' to its members for such elections.

What have the courts ruled?
The Supreme Court in *Kuldip Nayar versus Union of India* (2006), upheld the system of open ballot for Rajya Sabha elections. It reasoned that if secrecy becomes a source for corruption, then transparency has the capacity to remove it. However, in the same case the court held that an elected MLA of a political party would not face disqualification under the Tenth Schedule for voting against their party candidate. He/she may at the most attract disciplinary action from their political party. The Supreme Court has also held in *Ravi S. Naik and Sanjay Bandekar versus Union of India* (1994), that voluntarily giving up membership under the Tenth Schedule is not synonymous with only formally resigning from the party to which the member belongs. The conduct of a member both inside and outside the house can be looked into to infer if it qualifies as voluntarily giving up membership.

It may be noted that the six Congress MLAs, who cross-voted in Himachal Pradesh, have been disqualified under the Tenth Schedule for defying the party whip and being absent during the passage of the Budget in the Assembly.

What can be the way forward?
It is to uphold the higher principle of free and fair elections and its purity that the court upheld the system of open ballot to Rajya Sabha elections. However, the instances of cross-voting in the last decade have defeated the intent behind this procedure. It would be wishful thinking to expect any further amendments to strengthen the Constitution or laws against such voting practices since ruling parties' benefit from such unprincipled tactics.

The Supreme Court nevertheless in the case relating to the Chandigarh Mayoral election had observed that it will not allow democracy to be murdered. Cross-voting in Rajya Sabha elections is a serious threat to democracy. The court may therefore initiate a *suo moto* Public Interest Litigation in this matter or take it up when the order by the Himachal Pradesh Speaker disqualifying the six MLAs eventually comes up before it on appeal. It may, in that process, review its own order in the *Kuldip Nayar* case in light of its judgment in the *Ravi Naik* case.

Voting by an MLA against his/her political party in a Rajya Sabha election may well be construed as a strong reason to infer that the member had voluntarily given up membership of such party. If the court decides so, this would be a valid ground for disqualification under the Tenth Schedule. It would hopefully act as a deterrent against such cross-voting in the future.

Rangarajan R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. He currently trains civil-service aspirants at 'Officers IAS Academy'. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- As per Article 80 of the Constitution, representatives of each State to the Rajya Sabha are elected indirectly by the elected members of their Legislative Assembly.
- In order to rein in MLAs from cross-voting, an amendment to the Representation of the People Act, 1951 was carried out in 2003. Section 59 of the Act was amended to provide that the voting in elections to Rajya Sabha shall be through an open ballot.
- The Election Commission had clarified in July 2017 that the provisions of the Tenth Schedule, with respect to voting against the instruction of the party, will not be applicable for a Rajya Sabha election.

Is NATO membership in the cards for Ukraine?

Why is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization still wary of admitting the war-torn country to the alliance?

Garimella Subramaniam

The story so far:
Western powers joined Ukraine last weekend to mark two years of Russian aggression on its territory, as concerns grow that the conflict could spread into Europe. On the other hand, Jens Stoltenberg, secretary-general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), sounded emphatic on the inevitability of Kyiv joining the military bloc. However, that question appears unlikely to elicit consensus among member states any time soon.

What was the reason for the Russian invasion?
In 2008, NATO leaders declared their intention to admit Georgia and Ukraine to the bloc, although no timelines were indicated. The step must have been provocation enough for Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has been steadfast in his opposition to NATO expansion, especially into the heart of the former United Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR). Within months, President Putin sent tanks rolling into Tbilisi. In 2014, Moscow annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula and in February 2022 launched a full-scale war on the nation. If Kyiv is admitted now it would automatically kickstart NATO's Article 5 mutual defence provision, which stipulates that an attack on one member would be construed as an attack against all. Indeed, nothing less would reassure Kyiv, which gave up its nuclear arsenal in exchange for security guarantees by the U.S. and the U.K.

What is the status of the war now?
The most immediate concern is the severe depletion in Ukraine's artillery ammunition on the battlefield, which poses a challenge to hold back Russian troops along a 1,500 km frontline. According to the country's defence minister Rustem Umerov, the current shortfall, which has already increased Ukrainian casualties, allows Kyiv to fire barely a third of the absolute minimum of some 6,000 rounds of artillery shells it needs daily. On the other hand, according to western intelligence, Russian land forces have sustained an estimated 2,00,000 deaths and injuries since the onset of the conflict. Moscow achieved a breakthrough when Ukraine withdrew from the strategic city of Avdiivka, ascribed by the country's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to acute shortages in Kyiv's artillery firepower. The latter's withdrawal from Avdiivka is reportedly the first major victory for Russian forces since the capture of Bakhmut city.

What has been the U.S.'s role so far?
While the U.S. has been the largest arms contributor to the war effort, a $60 billion aid bill to Ukraine has been stalled in Congress. The Republican-dominated House of Representatives have refused to approve the financial package, caving into former President Donald Trump's pressure tactics. Hardline Republican voices have grown louder in arguing that it is about time that Europe took full responsibility for its own security and worked as an equal partner with the U.S.

What about the EU?
The 27-nation bloc recently overcame Hungarian hurdles to finance a €5 billion deal over four years to the Ukrainian economy. But governments are now squabbling over ways to top-up the €12 billion European Peace Facility (EPF) they had established to support Ukraine's war effort, funded by national contributions outside the bloc's common budget. Germany insists that the value of the weapons it supplies bilaterally should be factored into contributions to the common pool, while others feel that this would shrink the fund's volume. Moreover, some countries want that expenditure from the EPF to support the bloc's defence industry.

What is the road ahead?
It appears to be a pretty long one. Ukraine's full NATO membership is not on the table yet. For the time being, NATO has sought to assuage Ukraine's concerns by formalising current mechanisms of cooperation, which would empower Kyiv to call emergency meetings and ensure greater participation. President Putin's likely victory in a sham election in March and Mr. Trump's possible return to power later this year presents a predicament hard to contemplate for Ukraine.

The writer is Director, Strategic Initiatives, AgnoShin Technologies.

THE GIST

- Western powers joined Ukraine last weekend to mark two years of Russian aggression on its territory, as concerns grow that the conflict could spread into Europe.
- The most immediate concern is the severe depletion in Ukraine's artillery ammunition on the battlefield, which poses a challenge to hold back Russian troops along a 1,500 km frontline.
- While the U.S. has been the largest arms contributor to the war effort, a $60 billion aid bill to Ukraine has been stalled in Congress.

Three-hour emergency drill conducted at KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A full-scale mock emergency exercise was conducted at the Kempegowda International Airport on Thursday by various stakeholders to test and validate the airport's emergency plans and preparedness.

The exercise code-named Challenger '24 simulated a scenario involving the crash landing of the Challenger Flight number XX-9999.

Emergency services personnel conducting drill at Kempegowda International Airport on Thursday.

Realistic simulation

The exercise involved a realistic simulation, replete with an actual aircraft and 162 dummy passengers actively participating.

It began with the simulation of a passenger aircraft catching fire during the final approach for landing.

The fire was promptly extinguished by the Airport's Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting team, with support from the IAF and KSFES fire fighting teams.

The ARFF team, along with CISF, carried out the rescue operation and those requiring hospitalisation were swiftly transported to city hospitals under pre-existing MoUs with the airport.

There were eight 'mock' casualties, which included one child. Thirty passengers were transported to various hospitals in the city for medical attention of which 20 of them were seriously injured. As many as 132 passengers had minor or no injuries at all

A green corridor was established towards the city to assess readiness, and a real-time airlifting drill was conducted.

Helicopters from IAF too participated in the evacuation drill for critical casualty transportation to the IAF command hospital.

Over 2,000 participants from more than 85 organisations participated in the exercise, which commenced at 12.42 p.m. on Thursday.

"We undertake this significant full-scale drill biennially, engaging all stakeholders. The purpose of orchestrating this real-time simulated mock exercise is two-fold: firstly, to assess the effectiveness of our procedures and the readiness of our personnel in swiftly mitigating the impact of real emergencies; and secondly, to prioritise the preservation of lives and property," said Hari Marar, MD and CEO of Bangalore International Airport Limited.

71-year-old tribal man trampled to death by wild elephant

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A 71-year-old man belonging to the Soliga community was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Kollegal Wildlife Division of Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve in Chamarajanagar, on Thursday.

The victim, identified as Sannamada, was found dead at Karalakatte Hadi in the Doddasampige reserve forest with grievous injuries on his limbs and body.

Sannamada belonged to Karalakattepodu, and senior Forest Department officials reached the spot upon learning of the incident.

CHENNAI UNIFIED METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT AUTHORITY (CUMTA)
(An Authority under Government of Tamil Nadu)
4th Floor, Metros, No.327, Nandanam, Chennai-35
Email: cumtaoffice@tn.gov.in, Ph.No. 044-2855 2355

Online tender No. /Service	Bid period	Last date and time for submission of bid document	Opening of technical proposal
CUMTA/9112/TICKETING/2024 Dt.01.03.2024 "Selection of a Service Provider to Develop and Operate & Mobile Application for Multi-Modal Journey Planner & QR based Unified Ticketing in Chennai Metropolitan Area"	01.03.2024 to 17.04.2024	17.04.2024 @ 03.00 PM	17.04.2024 @ 04.00 P.M.

For details visit **www.tntenders.gov.in** and CUMTA website : **www.cumta.tn.gov.in**
DIPR/ 1307 /Tender/2024
Special Officer, CUMTA

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION, BENGALURU

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No: ELRESBC-Gr.296-OT-TL-SBGA dtd. 27.02.2024

The undersigned on behalf of the President of India invite e-tenders for the following works:

SL No	Item of work	Approximate value
1	Design, Supply, Construction, Testing and Commissioning of Single circuit 66kv, 2-phase transmission line from 66/11kV KPTCL substation at Shravanabelagola to 66kV/27KV Railway Traction Substation at Shravanabelagola in Channarayapatna taluk, Hassan for an appoximate Route length of 1.29kMs with Dismantling of existing SC tower in Yachenahally to Shravabelagola 66kv line along with 1 No of 66kV terminal bay at Sharavabelagola KPTCL Substation.	₹2,12,61,510.11

Last date of submission of bid for tender is **20.03.2024** at **15.00** Hours.
For full details of tender Notice and Tender Documents, tenderer may logon to the website: **www.ireps.gov.in**
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date.
No. PR/24/24 (FA) Dy.CEE/P&P/RE/SBC
"Serving Customers with a Smile"

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the General Public that my client **Mr. AMARESHA BABU.K S/o. Sri. K.Krishnappa,** R/at No.254, 13th Cross, 2nd 'A' Main, Vignan Nagar, New Thippasandra Post, Bengaluru-560 075, he was intend to purchase described in the schedule hereunder belongs to **Mrs. PRIYA DARSHINI PRAKASH D/o. Prakash Srinivas and Madhu Rani Somasundar,** R/at No.486, HIG-B, Lakshmikanth Nagar, Near Ganesha Temple, Hebbal, 1st Stage, Mysuru-570017, which is intend to purchase by my above client.

Therefore any other Person/s having any claim in respect of the referred property or part thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, tenancy, sub tenancy, transfer of title or beneficial interest, under any trust right of possession, or per-emptionor under any agreement or other disposition decree, or Awardor otherwise claiming howsoever, are hereby requested to make the same known in writing together with supporting documents to the undersigned below mention Address within **7 days** (both days inclusive) of the Publication hereof failing which the claim of such persons/s will deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Site No.33,** BBMP Katha No.553/76/5/33, presently BBMP Katha No.21/553/1,76/5/33, formed in Survey No.76/5, situated at **VIGNAN NAGAR, Kaggadasapura Dhakale, K.R. Pura Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru,** Presently under the jurisdiction of BBMP, Bengaluru, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet, totally measuring **1200 Sq.feet,** and bounded on the; **East by: Road; West by: Site No.34; North by: Site No.36; South by : Road;**

NAGESHA.M, Advocate
AMRUTHA LAW ASSOCIATES,
Flat No.103, 1st Floor, Karunya Residency, No.404, 4th Main, K.R. Pura Old Extension, Bengaluru-560 036.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mr. Emmanual Preetham Maben, Aged 41 years, S/o. Sri. Harry Michael Maben, and **Mrs. Ritu Lavina Maben**, aged 38 years, W/o. Mr. Emmanual Preetham Maben, both Residing at No.220, 4th Cross 5th Block, Koramangala VI Block, Bangalore-560095, intend to purchase the Schedule Property from **SRI.SURAJ MALIK,** Aged about 43 years, S/o Sri. Vinay Kumar Malik, **and SRI. CHAND MALIK,** Aged about 40 years, S/o Sri. Vinay Kumar Malik, Both are residing at: B4/223, Ganga Block, National Games Village, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560047. The Seller scame into the possession, occupation and ownership of the Schedule property by virtue of a registered Sale Deed dated 13.08.2018, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar (Banasvadi) Bangalore bearing Document No. BNS-1-07318-2018-19, Book-I, Stored in CD No. BNSD661 executed by Dr. P. Bindu in favour of the Sellers herein. Any person/s claimingto have any charge, lien, interest, minor claims, rights, whatsoever over theSchedule Property may lodge their claim with the undersigned with originaldocumentary proof within **10 days** from the date of publication of thisnotice, failing which, our clients will treat that there are no objections orclaims in respect of the Schedule Property. No claims will be entertained thereafter and our clients will proceed with the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No. 36, formed in Sy. No. 6/2, House List Khatha No.373, BBMP Khatha No.480/36, converted vide Order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR.(SA)136/2001-02, by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, situated at K Narayanapura Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now this property comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore MahanagaraPalike, (BBMP) limits, Bangalore, Measuring East to West: 60 Feet, North to South: 30 Feet, in all measuring 1800 Sq.Ft. and bounded on the:

East by : Site No.45,
West by : Road,
North by : Private Property
South by : Site No.37

Pallavi.K ADVOCATE
No.64/1, 5th Main Road, Chamarajapete, Bangalore-560 018 Ph:9739831357

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is given to the public that, **Smt.Prabha Suma Prasad**, the Vendor, is the absolute owner of all that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.2402, situated at 2nd Main Road, HAL IIIrd Stage Extn., Konena Agrahara, Bangalore – 560 017, BBMP Ward No.113, measuring East to West – 40 Feet and North to South – 30 Feet, admeasuring 1200 sq.ft., consisting of two storey residential building thereon **(Schedule Property)** having acquired under a Deed of Gift dated 07.10.2020, executed by **Sri.Manoranjan P., S/o late Prabhashankar,** in her favour and the Deed of Gift is registered as Document No.INR-1-04512-2020-21, in Book-I, and stored in C.D.No.INRD669, with the office of the Sub-Registrar, Indiranagar, Bangalore, and the Vendor is intending to sell the Schedule Property, in favour of our client.

The aforementioned Vendor, has represented to our client that the following documents i.e. 1) Original Lease-cum-Sale Agreement dated 20.10.1982, executed by the Lessor - Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore in favour of the Lessee – Mr.Ariff Sait s/o Elias Sait, registered as Document No.2173/1982-83, in Book-I, Volume No.2205, pages 197 to 201, with the office of the Sub-Registrar, Indiranagar, Bangalore 2) Original Sale Deed dated 14.06.1988, executed by Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore in favour of Mr.Arif Sait, registered as Document No.772/1988-89, in Book-I, Volume No.2720, Pages 132 to 134, with the office of the Sub-Registrar, of the City of Bangalore, on 27.08.1988, 3) Original Possession Certificate 4) Original Sale Deed dated 14.09.1995, executed by Mr.M.Arif Sait in favour of Mr.P.Manoranjan, registered as Document No.1859/1998-99, in Book-I, Pages 1 to 13, before the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore, and other relevant original documents, in respect of the Schedule Property are misplaced / lost and not traceable and the Vendor has represented that on 16.08.2022, the Vendor lodged a complaint through online at Police Unit, Bangalore City vide Lost Report No.0293609/2022 dated 16.08.2022 and also got published a Public Notice on 20.08.2022, in Kannada daily news paper – Kannada Prabha on page 16, and the Vendor has represented that no claims were received on the basis of the said missing/ lost documents. The Vendor is intending to sell the Schedule Property, in favour of our client and we are investigating the title and claim on behalf of our client.

All persons (s) claiming any form of right, title, claim, ownership, interest, etc., of whatsoever nature in the Schedule Property/ or any part thereof, either by way of a sale, exchange, gift, mortgage, charge, trust, inheritance, lien, minor claims or otherwise, are hereby required to make the same known / raise their objection to the undersigned within **15 days** from the date of publication of this Notice, with documentary proof, failing which the said sale will be completed, without any reference to such claim (s), and the same, if any, shall be considered as waived. Our client would not be bound by any claim/s lodged after the said period.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential site Property bearing **No.2402**, situated at **2nd Main, HAL IIIrd Stage Exten., Konena Agrahara, Bangalore – 560 017,** measuring East to West – 40 Feet (12.20 mtrs) and North to South 30 Feet (9.15 mtrs), consisting of two storey residential building thereon and bounded on :

East by : Road,
West by : Site No.2339
North by : Site No.2403
South by : Site No.2401

Smt. Yovini Rajesh Rohra, Advocate, M/s. Chander Kumar and Associates
510, 4th Floor, Oxford Towers, 139, Airport Road, Kodihalli, Bangalore 560 008 Ph : 41320188/ 90 / 425

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its owners: **(1)Smt.Shivarekha. S. Khanapure, (2)Smt.Suma K. Hanumanthappa** - (1)&(2) both D/o late Siddappa Channappa Choushetti, **(3)Smt.Malini R Choushetti** W/o late Rajashekar Siddappa Choushetti, **(4)Smt.Mayuri R Choushetti** D/o late Rajashekar Siddappa Choushetti, **(5)Smt.Kavitha R Choushetti** W/o late Rahul R Choushetti, **(6)Kum.Dhruthi R Choushetti** & **(7)Mr.Daivik R Choushetti** – (6)&(7) both children of late Rahul R Choushetti, and **(8)Smt.Manasi Paresh Kumar** D/o late Paresh Kumar, residing at: CGN Building, No.2, BMP No.19, 5th Main, Malleshpalya, New Thippasandra, Bangalore-560075.

The said Owners have represented that, they have lost/misplaced the original Sale deed dated 07/03/1977, registered as document No.2967/1976-77 of Book-1, Volume-518, at pages 153-154, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Srirampuram, Bangalore, in respect of the Schedule property and in this regard they have filed a Police Complaint on 20/02/2024 with the Bangalore City Police unit. Further the Owners represent that they have not deposited or otherwise handed over the said original deed to any person/s or Bank or institution and that the Owners have a freehold subsisting marketable title to the Schedule property.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or either by way of Agreement or Mortgage or maintenance or any other right or charge or lien in or over the Schedule property, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the supporting legal documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within **14 days** from the date of Publication of this Notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.145, PID No.34-129-145, measuring East to West 30 ft and North to South 50 ft, with a building thereon, situated at 7th C Main Road, Kalyan HBCS, Hampinagar, Bangalore-560040 and bounded on:

East by : Property bearing No.146
West by : Property bearing No.144
North by : Property bearing No.162
South by : Road

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**
Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mr. Lokesh G Son of Gangappa M,** residing at No.33, 9th Main Road, Shivanagar, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560 010, is the absolute owner and is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Property mentioned below in the Schedule. He has lost/misplaced the Original Sale Deed dated 08-05-1975, duly registered as Document No. 633/1975-76, Book I, Volume-714, Pages 246-248, at SRO, Bangalore, executed by **Mr. Gangashanaiah, son of Mr. Shanaiah,** in favour of **Mr. M Venkatesh, son of Late Muniswamappa** pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, an E-Complaint has also been lodged on 29-02-2024 vide Lost Report No. 0905489/2024. I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said document, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **7 days** and they may be suitably awarded and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original document, it shall not be binding on my client and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing BBMP Katha No.43, Old No.1/6, PID No.20-16-43, measuring East to West (63+53)/2 feet and North to South (38+40)/2 feet, situated at Old 7th Main Road, presently at 9th Main Road, Shivanagar, Bangalore, comprising of a building, comprising of a building, and bounded on:

East by : West of Chord Road; West by : Shivanahalli Village Layout; North by : Remaining portion belongs to Mr. Gangashanaiah; South by : Property belongs to Mr. Chikkanna.

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-500 020.
Contact : 9740718436

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES VIJAYPUR, JAMMU-184120

Camp Office: GMC Doctor's Guest House, Maheshpura Chowk, Jammu-180001

AIIMS/JMU/MED-PHY/Rect/2024(01) **Dated: 01-03-2024**

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jammu will conduct walk-in-Interview for the post of Medical Physicist on Contractual basis for a initial period of 12 months (1 year) extendable up-to max. 2 years or till next regular recruitment, whichever is earlier, as per the following schedule: -

S. No	Name of Post	Level of Pay in Pay Matrix	No. of posts	Age Limit	Essential Eligibility Criteria for deputation.	Date/Venue of Interview
1.	**Medical Physicist**	Consolidated Renumeration **Rs. 85000/-** per month	**01**	**21-35 Years**	**1. Educational Qualification** (I) M. Sc in Medical Physics or equivalent from a recognized University/ Institution **And** (ii) An internship of minimum 12 months in a recognized well-equipped radiation therapy department. **Or** (iii) M.Sc in Physics from a recognized University. (iv) A Post-Graduate diploma/degree in Radiological/Medical Physics from a recognized University/Institution. **And** (V) An internship of minimum 12 months in a recognized well-equipped radiation therapy department **Or** (Vi) M.Sc in Medical Technology with Radiotherapy as special subject from recognized University and / Or Diploma in Radiation Protection. **And** (Vii) An internship of minimum 12 months in a recognized well-requpped radiation therapy department. **2. Desired Technical Qualification.** (i) Radiological Safety officer **(RSO)** Certificate as per the guidelines of **AERB.**	**27/03/2024 (Wednesday)** **Venue** **AIIMS, Jammu, Camp Office GMC, Doctors, Guest House, Maheshpura Chowk, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu 180001**

Reporting Time:- 08.00 A.M to 09.00 A.M. Candidates fulfilling all the eligibility criteria should report for Walk-in-Interview along with their original certificates/testimonials etc. on scheduled date at the above designated venue for verification.

Venue for Reporting: Camp Office, AIIMS Jammu located at GMC Doctor's Guest House, Maheshpura Chowk, Jammu-180001

The duly filled Application form be forwarded to Recruitment Cell **(recruitmentcellaiimsjammu@gmail.com) / (admofficer1aiims@gmail.com) on or before 21.03.2024.**

The hard copies of the filled-up form should also be sent on or before **23/03/2024** at following address:-
AIIMS, Jammu , Camp Office, GMC, Doctor's Guest House, Maheshpura Chowk, Bakshi Nagar Jammu-180001

Candidates are requested to visit the Official Website (**www.aiimsjammu.edu.in**) of AIIMS Jammu for downloading of Application Form and Terms and conditions. Candidates are requested to regularly visit the Official website of AIIMS, Jammu **(www.aiimsjammu.edu.in)** for any up-date etc. related to the subject Advertisement.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Administration)
For and on Behalf of the Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu

Meet on AI applications in engineering

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of Civil Engineering, School of Engineering and Technology, Christ (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, will host a two-day international conference on "Artificial Intelligence Applications in Engineering and Technology (AIAET-2024)", on the Kengeri campus from March 6.

The conference, organised in association with the Indian Concrete Institute - Bengaluru Centre (ICI) and the Association of Consulting Civil Engineers (India), Bangalore (ACCE), will bring together like-minded researchers, academicians, scientists, and industry experts on a common interdisciplinary platform for discussion, sharing of ideas and thought processes, and promulgating research findings.

It features deliberations involving eminent keynote speakers from the industry and academia and researchers of various academic institutions of the country. These discussions will bring to light new research findings and thought processes related to AI applications in Engineering and Technology, Christ (Deemed to be University) said in a release.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANJUNATH BHAT, R/at 184, Babusapalya, Bang – 43 have changed my daughter's name from PRARTHANA MANJUNATH BHAT to PRARTHANA BHAT for all her future purposes by affidavit 28–02–2024 before notary Y R Chandrasekar.

I, MARIA Janet Prasad, W/o Rajendra Prasad, R/a #34, 23rd Cross, HBR Layout, 5th Block, Ashwath Nagar, Near KEB Office, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to Maria Janet John vide affidavit dt: 29.02.2024 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru

I, CHANDRALEKHA W/o Venkatesh.A, #91/1, 1st Main Road, Bhovipalya, Mahalashmipuram, Bengaluru-86 have changed my name to Chandralekha Thimmegowda vide affidavit dt 29.02.24 before Notary S.Vijayakumar, Bluru.

I, KAVALI Sushma, alias/@ Sushma Vijayalakshmi , W/o. Prem Kumar Veerla, No.13, Jyothi Nagar, 3rd Cross, Chikkabettahalli, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru- 560097, have changed my name from Kavali Sushma, alias/@ Sushma Vijayalakshmi to Sushma Veerla, vide affidavit, dated: 29/02/2024, sworn to before Notary Public, G.P. Chaya, Bangalore. Henceforth I shall be known as Sushma Veerla for all future purpose.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANJUNATH BHAT, R/at 184, Babusapalya, Bang 43 have changed my name from MANJUNATH RAGHUPATI BHAT to MANJUNATH BHAT for all my future purposes by affidavit 28–02–2024 before notary Y R Chandrasekar.

I, AYUSH son of Sanjay Kumar, resident of 933/6 6th Camp Aravalli Enclave AF Stn Jalahalli East have changed my name from Ayush to Ayush Kumar vide Affidavit dated 23–02–2024 at Bangalore.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

WE, FAHMEEDA AND SHAMEEM have lost our original settlement deed document for the property situated at No. 26, Old No. 112, Makan Road Bangalore, bearing Doc. No. 1877/73/74 of Book–1, MNSRSR5/9 (Seal–5) VOLUME No 1764 of Pages No 66 to 69 registered in the Office of the Sub–Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore. While travelling on 27–02–2024, Whereas the Lost Report was registered through FIR No. 0950507/2024, Finder Please Contact to this Mob : 7795557649 / 9901087200

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

OLD NAME/ Surname New Name/Surname VC Vishraanth Raghunath Vil S/O (Late), Kondiah Residence of No 95 Kannur Main Road, Bagalur Bengaluru Karnataka Have Changed My Name to Raghunath Vil

TENDERS

KERALA STATE DRUGS & PHARMACEUTICALS LTD.
(A Government of Kerala Undertaking)
Kalavoor – PO, Alappuzha, Kerala–688522.
Tel: -0477 2258184. website:www.ksdp.co.in, e-mail-projects@ksdp.in

Tender are invited for the following work.

1. E - tender - Supply, Installation Commissioning and validation of Autocoater (Tender ID:- 2024_ksdp_659109_1). For details visit www.etenders. kerala.gov.in

2. Sealed Tender - The Product Development of Small Volume Parentrals and Sterile Ophthalmic Preparations (EOI Ref No: KSDP / PRD/EOI/SVP - OPHT/2023-24/01).
For details visit www.ksdp.co.in

Sd/-
Managing Director

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL &SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-27)
O.S. No.7016/2021
Hg 26/03/2024

BETWEEN :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at: Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, having its head office at and branch office at: 4/10, My three Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur main road, Bengaluru-560068, through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M **...PLAINTIFF**
AND :
Mrs. Purabi Manuel and another ...DEFENDANT

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
1. Mrs. Purabi Manuel, D/o. Juna Ram, Aged about 35 Years,
2. Mr. John Manuel, S/o. Raja Manuel, Aged about 32 Years,
Defendantsss 1 & 2 are residing at No. 45/1A, MSR Green City Layout, Virgonagar Post, Seegehally, Near Ganesh Temple, K.R. Puram, Bangalore-560067.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs.6,84,625.50/- along with interest at the rate of 15% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the XII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-27), in person or by a pleader, on the day of **26.03.2024** at **11:00 A.M** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 22nd day of Feb 2024 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar, Vidhii Partners, Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01.

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

IN THE LIMELIGHT

A screengrab from the trailer of *Aatmapamphlet*.

How 'Aatmapamphlet' engages with caste through the eyes of a teenager

The film gives the audience a chance to imagine the Dalit body outside caste constraints, wherein the character is allowed to explore popular heroic attributes that make him bask on screen as a lovable figure

Harish S. Wankhede

The revolutionary call for 'annihilation of caste' appears to be stalled today. Instead, contemporary democracy has witnessed grand celebrations of people's ethnic and social belongingness. Even in academic circles, it is acknowledged that differences based on gender, race, nationalities, languages, etc. are extremely difficult to erase and therefore a greater secularisation of these identities would be a better option. Differences need to be appreciated and conventional hierarchies and inequalities that persist due to it should be made nominal. However, caste identities in India are yet to receive such possibilities. Though caste is part of the democratic and public discourse, it creates anxiety and paranoia, especially among the groups that are identified with 'low caste' markers. The hope that Dalit-Bahujan groups can be assertive about their caste identities, without the fear of discrimination and harassment, is still unachievable.

Setting the scene

The much-appreciated Marathi film *Aatmapamphlet* (2023), recently released on Zee5, is an impressive interlocutor in this discussion. It places the question of caste, mainly the neo-Buddhist identity, at the centre of the narrative without making it the prism to understand social trouble, caste divisions and violence. The audience see Ashish (Om Bendkhale), the Dalit protagonist, as a playful, witty teen who narrates his life's journey in the midst of the country's socio-political turmoil during the 1980-90s. It creatively highlights the possibility of secular socialisation of caste identities.

Director Ashish Avinash Bende's film is creative and bold. It opens with a humble acknowledgement that the audiences are not going to witness any historical spectacle about iconic personalities (subject of autobiographies), but that the film is a peripheral story of 'normal' beings that find the meaning of their existence in the shadows of significant historic events like the assassination of Indira Gandhi, the announcement of the Mandal Commission Report and the Babri Masjid demolition. In the backdrop of such major events, the film pushes the audience to engage with the beautiful love story of Ashish and Shrishti (Pranjali Shrikant).

Ashish is a likable teen who is deeply infatuated with Shrishti. He is assisted by his four mischievous classmates (a beautiful 'brotherhood' is formed) to achieve a breakthrough in his quest to find love. Till this part, the story has no novelty as many such teen romances are already available. The shift in the narrative begins as we witness the distinct social locations of the characters. The girl belongs to the Brahmin caste whereas the lover boy is from a Dalit/neo-Buddhist family. In addition, his four friends are from different communities, mainly Muslim, Maratha, Brahmin and Kunbi.

Once the caste identities of the characters are revealed, it is obvious to the audience that they should now expect the narrative to enter the zone of social and communal anxieties, building a plot around social antagonism and caste discrimination, revealing the brutal domination of the social elites at the climax. Interestingly, no such turn is taken. Instead, the caste and social question are addressed through heartfelt emotions of the young boys, showcasing its pitiable need in healing emotional heartaches.

A heartfelt depiction

Though Ashish understands the complexities of caste boundaries and social rules, he perpetually ruptures these rigidities by acting as a free and aspirational being. Such portrayal of a Dalit character is unusual as Marathi cinema often utilises conventional stereotypes of Dalits as victim (*Court,* 2014), stigmatised beings (*Fandry,* 2013) or struggling angry youth (*Mukta,* 1994). The possibility to imagine the Dalit body outside caste constraints, wherein the character is allowed to explore popular heroic attributes that make him bask on screen as a lovable figure, has not been portrayed much. Importantly, the film also shows the other characters as equally free from their social compartments and caste-based stereotypes. They are inattentive towards the caste question and operate in social spaces with the virtues of civility and care. Such depiction is surely fictional and dramatic, but because the narrative is presented through the heart of a teenager, it appears absolutely honest.

The film talks about the profound connection between youthfulness, teenage absurdities and their innocent imaginations of the world. Such an atmosphere disturbs the logic of adult 'common-sense' as it often fails to examine life beyond routine social actualities. It shows that social and communal anxieties can be resolved by giving more importance to love, friendship and kindness. The experiences of mundane small happy moments, the joy of innocent friendly conversations, the beauty of longing for a loved one are presented with sentimental honesty and graceful courage.

Such warmth and wisdom in storytelling has been the hallmark of Marathi parallel cinema (remember *Shyamchi Aai* (1953), *Shwaas* -India's official entry to Oscar in 2004, *Fandry* (2013), *Killa* (2014), etc.) and *Aatmpamphlet* shall be placed in the same constellation. At times, it also reminds us of the legendary film *Forrest Gump* (1994) that also celebrates similar sentiments of love and innocence in tremulous times. The film is a comic drama but not in a conventional way as the audience can feel the satirical wallop that educates and entertains without making much noise. The performances beautifully capture teenage emotions while the realistic screenplay further elevates the cinematic experience.

Unrealistic?

On the flip side however, one can see that the overload of fiction and fantasy in the narrative surpasses or hazes real social lives and thus disallows the audience to engage and experience the brutal actualities that often torment the lives of Dalits and other marginalised communities. There is a possibility of making cinema that deeply engages with social conundrums, not necessarily to pass a humanistic judgment on it, but to unravel episodes of social guilt, depression and conflicts under which a large section of the population has been engulfed till date. *Aatmapamphlet* escapes that route and invites the audience to examine the same site with the emotional force of teenage kids. This is a wonderful cinematic experience and more such innovation in fiction and drama will elevate the intellectual caliber of artistic cinema further.

The writer is Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies, JNU, New Delhi

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Ameen Sayani, one of the most recognisable voices on Indian radio, passed away last week in Mumbai. A quiz on his life

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1

Binaca Geetmala, hosted by Sayani, was a weekly countdown show of the top songs from Hindi cinema. It was the most popular radio programme during its run of 42 years. Binaca was a popular toothpaste those days. The subsequent incarnations of the show were also renamed after an oral hygiene brand. Name the brand.

QUESTION 2

For a long time, Binaca Geetmala was broadcast from which country's radio, which Sayani's brother was the producer of? And why was this decision taken?

QUESTION 3

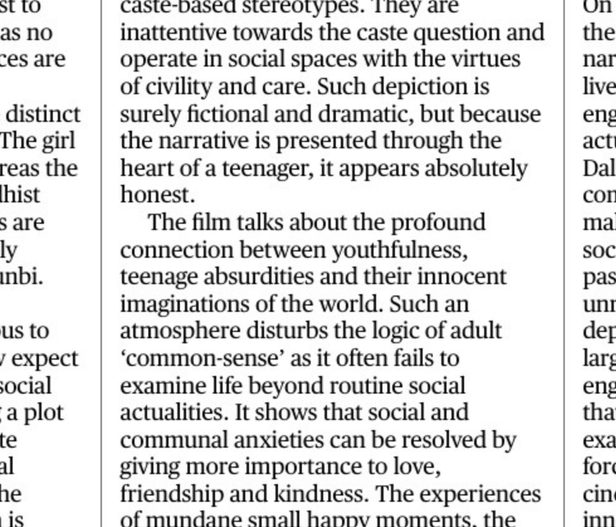
In which language did Sayani host Binaca Geetmala?

QUESTION 4

Sponsored by Cadbury India, this show began in 1972 and was hugely popular. In 1992, it became a TV show on Zee TV before moving to other channels. Today, most people associate this show with the Trinamool Congress MP Derek O' Brien. Which show is this, which Sayani also hosted after his brother died?

QUESTION 5

This actor once said that he had gone to a commercial broadcasting firm for auditions but they were too busy to attend to him. That is why he didn't become a broadcaster and became an actor instead, he said. The 'they' he was referring to was Ameen Sayani and his wife Rama Mattu. Sayani later said that if he had auditioned this actor, he would have "been on the streets." Who is this actor known for his baritone?



Visual question:
Identify this famous playback singer who is in the photo with Ameen Sayani.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1.These are large rocks balanced on a small point on a surface such that even a little touch could send them rocking back and forth. **Ans: Logans**
2. Name the southern African country whose banknotes featured a geological formation called Balancing Rocks. **Ans: Zimbabwe**
3. The reserve set up to protect the many balancing rocks in Australia. **Ans: Devil's Marbles Conservation Reserve**
4. This balancing rock is a popular tourist attraction in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu. **Ans: Krishna's Butterball**
5. This Pagoda in Myanmar is a popular site of Buddhist pilgrimage. **Ans: Kyaiktiyo**
Visual: Name this famous balancing rock. **Ans: Piedra Movediza**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Rajmohan.V| Saheni George

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Ms. Sunita Pandey, Varanasi, wants to know how to use 'levity.'"

" Levity means 'lack of serious thought, frivolity, unbecoming jocularity.'

His boss dislikes him for his levity.

'Levity' is the opposite of gravity which means 'seriousness, solemnity, the quality of being grave.' Some rise to great heights through their gravity and some others fall through their levity."

"Mr. M. Jonathan Jebari, Sheik Dawood Street, Erode, wants to know the difference between 'navy' and 'navvy.'"

" 'The navy' refers to 'the whole body of a state's ships of war, including crews and the maintenance system'. A navvy is a labourer employed in building or excavating roads, canals, etc. This is used in British English. The 'a' in 'navy' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'take'. The 'a' in 'navvy' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'man"

"Mr. Janarthanan, Tiruchi, wants to know the origin of tiffin."

" 'Tiffin' was used for the first time by the British during their stay in India. Now it is used in English to mean a light meal or snack taken at midday or in the middle of the morning. In India, it is used to mean any light meal or snack. 'Tiffin' is from 'tiffing', meaning drinking, and it was extended to eating. 'Tiff is 'a little drink of weak liquor or punch'. 'To tiff' is to take a little drink. 'Tiff' or 'tiffing' is no longer used In English. 'Tiffin' also is used only occasionally by native speakers in Britain. It is widely used in India. There is another word 'tiff' which means a petty quarrel or a fit of peevishness."

"Ms. V. Geetha wants to know the difference between 'debate' and 'discussion.'"

"When you discuss something with another, you exchange views. By exchanging views, you get better ideas, your doubts are clarified. A debate is a formal argument between two opposing parties. It is also a discussion where each party wants to prove by argument that it is better. In discussions, you seek clarity. In debates, you seek victory."

"Mr. R. V. Raman, Nehru Nagar, Chromepet, Madras, writes: "The meaning of 'gen' given is absolutely correct, but would you be kind enough to entertain a further amplification of the same? I served as an aircraft mechanic in the Royal Air Force in the early forties (I am retired now for over 18 years). In the flying squadron that I served, the daily ritual was a 'pre-flight' briefing before commencement of the day's sorties. The first information to be given to us for a pre-dawn flight was GEN by the CTO (Chief Technical Officer) which literally meant the number of serviceable aircraft crash tenders and other technical matters and also the remedial measures taken/to be taken. Thus GEN (we understood then and even now) was 'general engineering news'. In course of time, GEN lost its engineering importance but came to mean something important. It was a common practice to refer to any person as a 'gen man' or 'gen kid,' meaning that he knew his stuff. Some of our wartime air force technicians living or dead will bear me out on this."

Published in The Hindu on April 16, 1991.

Word of the day

Adumbrate:
describe roughly or briefly or give the main points or summary of; give to understand

Synonyms: sketch, outline, insinuate, intimate

Usage: *He wrote several articles that adumbrated the emerging political movement.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/adumbratepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈædʌmˌbɹeɪt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Phone-in programme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board will conduct a phone-in programme on Saturday.

According to a BWSSB release, its chairman will address the grievances of consumers relating to water billing, manhole overflowing, meter reading, improper water supply, and sanitary issues.

Those interested in participating can 080-22945119 between 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. Consumers are required to share their R.R. number details before raising a complaint.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, MAR. 01	
RISE 06:35	SET 18:28
RISE 23:04	SET 10:02
SATURDAY, MAR. 02	
RISE 06:35	SET 18:29
RISE 23:58	SET 10:44
SUNDAY, MAR. 03	
RISE 06:34	SET 18:29
RISE 00:00	SET 11:32

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	23
Mysuru	34	21
Bengaluru	31	19

Bengaluru Today
32ºC A dry weather to continue. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will remain pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33ºC The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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CM promises to end long wait for Karnataka State Film Awards

Actor Dhananjaya, brand ambassador of BIFFes, requests govt. to offer subsidy to filmmakers and help newcomers establish themselves

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, filmmaker Jabbar Patel, actors Shivarajkumar and Dhananjaya, and Aradhana, daughter of actor Malashri, at the 15th Bengaluru International Film Festival on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Thursday that the long-pending Karnataka State Film Awards will soon be given away. Speaking at the inauguration of the 15th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes), Siddaramaiah said: "Committees have been formed to decide on the winners from the year 2019. Based on the reports from the committees, we will soon give away the awards."

The Chief Minister declared the festival open and said he would love to see films spreading the message of love and humanity. "I urge film buffs to use this opportunity to watch the best of films from across the world," he said.

The Karnataka government had announced the winners for the 2018-19 season, but it is yet to give away the prizes. The awards for the following years haven't been announced. The State government has attributed the delay to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Actor Dhananjaya, the brand ambassador of the event, superstar Shivarajkumar, actor and the newly-appointed president of Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy, acclaimed filmmaker Jabbar Patel, and other notable personalities from cinema and politics were present at the inauguration that took place at the grand stairs of the Vidhana Soudha.

Starting today, 180 films from 50 countries will be screened across 11 screens at Orion Mall

Mr. Dhananjaya requested support from the government for newcomers from the film industry. "I urge the government to resume its plan of offering subsidy to filmmakers. After the pandemic, it has been a challenge for film professionals, especially for youngsters, to thrive in the industry," he said.

Jabbar Patel, who made the award-winning *Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar* (2000), starring Mammootty as social reformer and politician Ambedkar, said he wishes to see the Kannada version of his movie. "In 2000, my film travelled across the world and got dubbed in several languages. In a special incident, the Chief Justice of England watched the film and said B.R. Ambedkar's Constitution is one of the best in the world. I wanted the people of Karnataka to see the film in their language. However, there was an unofficial ban on dubbing in the state during that time. I heard that now the ban is lifted. I request the Kannada film industry and the government to dub *Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar* in Kannada," he said.

Starting Friday, around 180 films from 50 countries will be screened across 11 screens at the Orion Mall. Some films will also be shown at Dr. Rajkumar Bhavana and Suchitra Cinema and Cultural Academy as well. For details on screenings and passes, log on to https://biffes.org

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GUARANTEE GOVERNMENT...
Energy Department
Gruha Jyothi
UPTO 200 UNITS FREE ELECTRICITY TO EACH HOME
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Total Registered consumers 1.66 Crores
Total beneficiaries 1.60 Crores
Total subsidy amount 3,644 Crores
97% beneficiaries across Karnataka
No deadline for registration
Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Sri K.J. George, Hon'ble Minister for Energy, participated in a program along with Sri. Siddaramaiah, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka.
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Due to this decision of the State government, the consumers using less electricity will get Zero bills.
Annually, the state government will spend an additional Rs. 398 crore subsidy to meet the demand
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Anna Bhagya 10kg Free food grains
Gruha Lakshmi ₹2000
Yuva Nidhi ₹3000 ₹1500
Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
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Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
Hubballi Electricity Supply Company Limited
Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited
Mangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
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Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
of Karnataka

Department of Health and Family Welfare

Shri. D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister
of Karnataka

Launch of Certificate of Appreciation Program for families of Organ Donors by Shri Siddaramaiah, Hon'ble Chief Minister

1st March 2024, Friday

09:00 AM Krishna, Chief Minister's Home Office , Kumar Krupa Road, Bengaluru

" Donate Organs, Save Lives "

- One donor can save up to 8 lives by donating heart, kidney, liver, pancreas, small intestine, and lungs.
- Up to 50 lives can be benefited by donating tissues like skin, heart valves, and corneas from a deceased person.
- Organ and tissue donation can be done at any age irrespective of gender.
- Any brain-dead person can donate organs or tissues legally.

Scan QR code to pledge for Organ Donation and save lives.

Donate Organs, Save Lives

For more information, contact: JEEVASARTHAKATHE/ SOTTO
Arogya soudha 6th floor, Bengaluru-560023
Mobile: +91 98450 06768, **E – mail ID** : jeevasarthakathe@gmail.com
Website: https://www.jeevasarthakathe.karnataka.gov.in

Shri Siddaramaiah, Hon'ble Chief Minister, along with Shri Dinesh Gundu Rao, Hon'ble Minister of Health, discussing the departmental Programme.

Donate Organs, Save Lives - Save Lives, After Life

"To protect and respect our vibrant culture and tradition," is a Fundamental Duty of every citizen. This is affirmed by our constitution | Your Health, Our Responsibility

First annual exam for II PU students begins today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The first annual examination for II PU students will begin on Friday, and a total of 6,98,624 students from 5,912 PU colleges have enrolled, including 3,30,644 boys and 3,67,980 girls.

On Friday, Kannada and Arabic exams will be held from 10.15 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. in 1,124 examination centres. To avoid malpractices, the Karnataka State Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has decided to conduct the exam under the surveillance of CCTV. This year, the board has restricted full-sleeved shirts for students in the examination halls. Students have to follow the dress code prescribed by educational institutions and directions of the SC.

KSRTC, BMTC and other corporations will provide free bus service for the students. They can travel free of cost by showing their ID cards and admission cards on the day of the examination.

BBMP must issue notice to owners prior to reopening property tax returns for scrutiny: High Court

BBMP told to take steps to have SOP amended to bring it in consonance with statutory provisions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It is mandatory for the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to issue prior notice to the owner or occupier of properties for reopening property tax returns filed under the self-assessment scheme (SAS), either for random scrutiny of the returns or in cases of evasion of filling property tax returns, said the High Court of Karnataka.

This is among various directions issued by the court after noticing that some of the provisions of the standard operating procedure (SOP), issued by the BBMP's Chief Commissioner in December 20203 for assessment, recovery and management of property tax and maintenance of property records, are contrary to the statutory provisions of the BBMP Act, 2020.

One of the main allegations made in hundreds of petitions filed by a large number of property tax owners questioning the legality of the recent action of BBMP in reopening SAS returns for random scrutiny is that the BBMP had reassessed the property tax without issuing notices to them as per the law and that the inspection of properties was conducted in their absence resulting in wrong reassessment.

Justice S. Sunil Dutt Yadav also directed the BBMP to take appropriate steps to have the SOP amended to bring it in consonance with the statutory provisions. The court issued the direction while setting aside the property tax demand notice issued by the BBMP to one of the petitioners, Shariff Constructions.

The inspection, survey, and measurement of properties for the purpose of scrutiny or evasion under Section 144 (13) of the Act can be carried out by the authorised officers of the BBMP only after issuing notice to the owner or occupier of the properties, the court made it clear.

The court said that the owner or occupier is bound to furnish information required, which would be the basis for reassessment at the time of inspection. However, if the owner or occupier refuses to allow the authorised officer to inspect the premises, such refusal shall be recorded, and the officer can proceed to assess the property to the "best of his judgment."

KARNATAKA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD
No.16, 2nd Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560001
PH: 080-22867369 E-mail: cgmksamb@gmail.com

Tender No: KSAMB/PROC/28/6658/2023-24 Date: 29.02.2024

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Karnataka State Agricultural Marketing Board is inviting tender for Purchase of New Jute Gunnybag for packaging of Ball copra to be procured under Price Support Scheme of 2024 in Tumakuru, Mysuru and Chamarajanagar Districts. For more information can be obtained from **www.kppp.karanataka.gov.in** portal vide indent No: APMC/2023-24/IND0004. The Last date for submission is **06.03.2024.**

Sd/-
Chief General Manager
KSAMB, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/SHIRDI SAI/3965/2023-24

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board
#49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru-01
Ph: 080-2558 6520 / 2558 9112 Fax: 080-2588 6321
e-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in | Website: kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

IFT No:PCB/16/SS/AO/2023-24/2107 Date:28.02.2024

INVITATION OF TENDER
(Through e-procurement portal)
FOR PROVIDING SECURITY SERVICES TO HEAD OFFICE AND OTHER SUBORDINATE OFFICES OF KSPCB (IFT) (CALL-2)

The Member Secretary, KSPCB invites Bids from eligible tenderers for providing Security Service to the Board in two cover system through e-procurement platform website **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
The tenderer shall quote service charges for duty hours of security personnel as mentioned in section V schedule of requirement of the tender document. Tenderers are advised to note the technical criteria and qualification criteria specified in section VI & VII to get qualify for award of contract.
Tender document are uploaded in e-procurement platform website **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Tenders shall be accompanied by earnest money deposit to be made through e-payment.
Other details can be verified in tender documents as uploaded in website.

Sd/-
Member Secretary

DIPR/CP/JA/3979/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION KOPPAL.
Phone No: 08539 – 222318 email : eepwdkpl2@gmail.com

IFT No. PWD:DK:DB:KW-1, 3 & 4:2023-24/3914 Date: 27-02-2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers as per standard bid documents KW-1, 3 & 4 on http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal. **Head of Account: 5054-03-101-0-02-132 MDR Bridges Improvements, 2059-Maintenance to Non Residential Buildings, 2216-Maintenance to Residential Buildings & 8443-Deposit Contribution / 2023-24.** Two cover Tender procedure as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed. For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours on Phone No. 08539 – 222318 and all informations regarding tenders can be had from website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. **04 Works** (Work Indent No: **9265, 8941, 8955 & 5747**). Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders **05-03-2024 Time 16.00,** Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid **06-03-2024 Time 16.30.** Minimum & Maximum Estimate Amount **Rs. 12.29 Lakhs & Rs. 150.00 Lakhs** respectively. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address, EMD, Time for Tender Queries/ Clarification, Date of Financial Bid Opening, Category & Other information as mentioned in KPPP Portal. Note: Any changes either in tender date, re-inviting of tenders or any other changes tenderers can view in KPPP portal & no separate notification will be published in news paper.

Sd/- **EE**
PWD Division. Koppal.

DIPR/KOPPAL/489/2023-24/DESHPANDE PUBLICITY

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

EE/RWSS/Dvn/SMG/TE/JJM/Kppp-Proc/2023-24/2421 Date : 26.02.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Kppp-procurement)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka and as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000, tenders are invited to undertake the following works under Jal Jeevan Mission in the limits of Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga. **Indent Nos: (1) 420 CALL2 (2) 721 CALL2.** Tender details, conditions and corrigendum or changes are available in website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Eligible bidders shall submit their bid and documents through above e-portal only. **Few conditions of the tender :** (1) The last date for receipt of tenders from contractors : **05.03.2024 at 5.30 P M.** (2) Date of opening of Double Cover Technical bid : **07.03.2024 at 11.30 A M.** (3) Date of opening of Double Cover Financial bid : **09.03.2024 at 11.30 A M.** (5) Specified time period for completion of works : **6 month.**

sd/- Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/SMG/No.238-02
zenkar/2023-24

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through kpp portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage tender system from registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Project), 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bangalore-560 009.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
	IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(P)/ACE(Cst-DCW)/1896/2023-24 Date: 28.02.2024	
1.	Design, Engineering, Construction and Commissioning of 10 MLD Capacity Sewage Treatment Plant with Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) at Anjanapura further extension-2 with 10MLD TSPS, pumping main with 7 years Operation and Maintenance for Seven Years. (DBO contract).	Rs.4156 Lakhs / Rs.41,56,000/-

For the above work the last date for submission of completed tender documents is on **03.04.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs.** Tender will be opened on **04.04.2024 after 16:00 Hrs.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Project)

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design&QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bangalore-560 009.

	IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE/TA/2626/2023-24 Date: 29.02.2024	
2.	Work of sinking of 6 ½ " dia new borewells with necessary accessories at Various locations of RR Nagara assembly constituency (Ward No.73) coming under AEE(BW)-4 sub division. **- (Call-2)**	Rs.105.51 Lakhs / Rs.1.87 Lakhs

For the above work the last date for submission of completed tender documents is on **09.03.2024 upto 16:00 Hrs.** Technical Tender will be opened on **11.03.2024 at 11:00 Hrs.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Design &QA)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/3958/KAVITA/23-24

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, (Mahadevapura- Lakes), Room No.306, 3rd Floor, Annex-3 Building, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Head office, N.R Square, Bengaluru-560002

No: EE/Mahadevapura-Lakes/TN-13/2023-24 Date: 29.02.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Short term Tender Notification)
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP)Only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/ Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.
The Tender Document can be downloaded from the GoK Karnataka Public procurement portal **(http://Kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non refundable) in the form of e-Payment through KPPP Platform. The Tenderer should accompany a copy of the Valid Registration Certificate and shall be submitted through KPPP (Standard Tender Bid Document)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)/EMD amount in Rs.
1	Providing Chain link fencing to Lakes in Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency,(Call-3), Value of work (Rs. in Lakhs) : **250.00,** EMD (in Rupees)**: 3,75,000.00**.

Calendar of events:
1.Bid documents can be downloaded from **01-03-2024** from the website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). 2.** Pre bid meeting will be held on **06-03-2024** at **15.30** hours in the office of the Executive Engineer (MDP-Lakes), BBMP. **3.**Tenders must be submitted online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on or before **16.00 hours** on **11-03-2024. 4.**Technical Bids will be opened on the website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** in the office of the Executive Engineer (MDP-Lakes), BBMP on **12-03-2024** at **16.30 hours.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, (Mahadevapura - Lakes), BBMP.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client ('**Client**') is desirous of entering into certain transaction in connection with the immovable properties morefully described in the '**Schedule**' hereto and hereinafter collectively referred to as '**Schedule Properties**' with (i) Mrs. Shailaja B. Bhat; (ii) Mr. Vikram Bhat; and (iii) Ms. Preetham Bhat, residing at Bengaluru ('**Owners**'). The Owners have represented to our Client that they are the joint and absolute owners of the Schedule Properties, with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.
Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owners, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Properties or their objections, if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof of such claim/s or objections, so as to reach us at the address given below within a period of 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owners has/ have any right, title, interest or claim/s in respect of the Schedule Properties and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction in connection with the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE
(Description of the Schedule Properties)

Item No. 1
All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing No. 350, Municipal No. 5 (Old No. 350), having PID No. 62-127-5, measuring 3,720 square feet along with the building constructed thereon together with a passage, measuring 841 square feet, situated at 2nd Cross, Ist Block Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560011, and bounded on the:
East by : Property No. 351;
West by : Property No. 349;
North by : Property No. 355; and
South by : Property No. 350/5/1 and 02nd Cross Road.

Item No. 2
All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Municipal Nos. 5/1/2/3 (Old No. 350), having PID Nos. 62-127-5/1, 62-127-5/2, 62-127-5/3 measuring 2,639 square feet along with the building constructed thereon, situated at 2nd Cross, Ist Block Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560011, and bounded on the:
East by : Property bearing No. 351;
West by : Property bearing No. 350/5;
North by : Property bearing No. 350/5; and
South by : Road.

Sd/-
Ms. Brijita Prakash, Partner
DSK Legal,
Prestige Loka, No. 201, 2nd Floor, No. 7/1 & 7/7, Brunton Road, Craig Park Layout, Bengaluru – 560025.Tel: 080-69548770.

Date: 01.03.2024
Place : Bengaluru

Department of AYUSH
Dhanvanthri Road, Bengaluru-560009.
Telephone: 080-22876553, Fax: 080-22340139.
E-mail: directorayush.eproc@gmail.com

No: AYUSH/88/Procurement/2023-24 Date: 29.02.2024

Tender Notification
(Through Kpp Portal only)

The e-tender in Two Document Systems invited from the Tender inviting Authority and Accounts Officer, Department of AYUSH, Bengaluru for the supply of Laptops to Health and Wellness Centres (HWC) under NAM Scheme as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999-2000 Rules there under. The Tender document will be available from **29.02.2024** onwards in the Kpp Portal of Karnataka **http://kppp.karnataka. gov.in.** The last day of bid submission is **07.03.2024 upto 5:30 p.m.** For further details may be viewed at above website.

Sd/- Accounts Officer/Chairman
(Tender Inviting Authority)
Directorate of Ayush, Dhanvanthri Road, Bengaluru-560 009.

DIPR/CP/RO3976/AAPL/2023-24

The Department of Horticulture Government of Andhra Pradesh

Development, Operation and Maintenance of the Terminal Market Yard located at Peapully, Nandyal District on PPP mode

The Department of Horticulture, Government of Andhra Pradesh (the **"Authority"**) has decided to select a private player for Development, Operation and Maintenance of the Terminal Market Yard at Peapully, Nandyal District on PPP mode in its endeavor to provide better trading opportunities to the farmers along with providing better quality products to consumers. The Proposals have been invited for the same through Public Private Partnership mode (the **"Project"**).

The Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled to be held on 04-03-2024 at 3.00 PM hours in the Conference Room of Horticulture Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, TTPC Building, 1st Floor, Old Market Yard, Chuttugunta (Beside Mini Rythu Bazar), A.P., Guntur, 522004. The bidders can also join through VC, the link shall be uploaded on https://horticulture.ap.nic.in/ The Bidders are requested to mail their queries about the RFP document to shmcell.ap@gmail.com and hyderabad@nabcons.in on / before 05-03-2024.

The RFP document and reply to the queries raised by the bidders shall be uploaded on **https://horticulture.ap.nic.in/** and **www.nabcons.com**

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS AT THE BELOW MENTIONED ADDRESS IS 07-03-2024 TILL 1700 HOURS.

For further Information please contact
Commissioner of Horticulture, AP
Ph No: 0863-2216470
Ms Shilpa Deshpande, Consultant (NABCONS)
Ph No: +91 84509000365
Sri. V Bharath, Consultant (NABCONS)
Ph No: +91 9603277141
Sri. V.S. Dharmaja,
Deputy Director of Horticulture
Ph No: 733 075 2222

For Submission of BIDS
Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P.,
Horticulture Department,
Government of Andhra Pradesh,
TTPC Building, 1st Floor,
Old Market Yard, Chuttugunta
(Beside Mini Rythu Bazar)
Guntur-522004, AP.

DIPR 2748PP/CL, Dt.29/02/2024

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, RI-Yelahanka Division, 3rd Floor, Mini Vidhana Soudha, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064

No.: EE/RI/YNK/TEND/06/2023-24 Date: 29.02.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)
The Executive Engineer Road Infrastructure-Yelahanka Division, BBMP invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work
1	Improvements to drain and footpath of Narayanapura Main Road from Thanisandra Main Road to Yelahanka Zone boundary Byatarayanapura Assembly Constituency. **Standard Bid Document - KW3. Appx. Amount put to tender (in lakhs): 98.98. EMD (in Rs.): 99000/-**
2	Improvements to drain and asphalting to Rachenahalli Srirampura Main Road from Thanisandra Circle to Village in Srirampura Byatarayanapura Assembly Constituency. **Standard Bid Document - KW4. Appx. Amount put to tender (in lakhs): 197.99. EMD (in Rs.): 297000/-**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **01.03.2024. (2)** Last date for receipt of Queries **07.03.2024** up to **3.00 p.m.** in the office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure Yelahanka Division, BBMP. **(3)** Pre Tender Meeting will be held on **07.03.2024** at **4.00 p.m. (4)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **5.00 p.m.** on **15.03.2024** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. **(5)** Technical Bids will be opened on **16.03.2024** at **5.30 p.m.**
Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit e-Procurement portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RI-Yelahanka Division

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: CEE/TZH/SEE(O)/AEE-1/F-243/2023-24/23745-49 Date: 28.02.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bids through e-procurement mode for Combined Work of **(1)** Construction of **one number of 66kV Terminal Bay at existing 66/11kV Kandli Sub-station** in Hassan Taluk, Hassan District for proposed 66kV Line to proposed Railway Tractions Sub-station at Alur. **(2)** Construction of **66 kV SC Line on DC Towers with coyote ACSR conductor from existing 66/11kV Kandli Sub- station to** proposed Railway Traction Sub-station at Alur railway **station for a distance of 4.54Kms.**

For Arranging power supply to an extent of 5MVA on 66kV reference in favour of Divisional Railway Manager,Traction and Distribution, South Western Railway Mysuru for their Railway traction Sub-station (RTSS) proposed at **Alur** Railway Station in Alur Taluk, Hassan District **on Total Turnkey basis** including supply of all matching materials/Equipments and Erection(Including Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments, Testing and Commissioning.

WORK INDENT NO: KPTCL/2023-24/EL/ WORK_INDENT755

The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the e-Tendering process can be obtained by logging on to e-portal website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or directly you can access the tendering website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **04.03.2024 at 11:00 am.** Any other details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electy., Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan, 3rd Floor, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan-573 201. Ph: 08172-231051.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಸಂ./ಕಾಅ/ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿ/ಮೈ/ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್/ಸ.ಇಂ/ಕ.ಇಂ.

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 14/2023–24, ದಿ:26–02–2024

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರುರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರುರವರ ಸಹಯೋಗದೊಂದಿಗೆ, CPWD/KPWD/WRDO/PRED and any other Government Organisationನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾಗಿರುವ ಅಥವಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎನ್‌ರೋಲ್ ಮಾಡಿರುವ 4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಮೂನೆ KW-1& 4 ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಂತೆ 2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಿವಿಧ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಗಳ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಮೈಸೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಟಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ/ದುರಸ್ತಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮೊತ್ತವು ರೂ.4.50 ಲಕ್ಷದಿಂದ 160.59 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್ ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ದಿ: 28.02.2024 ರಿಂದ 06.03.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣ/ವಿಚಾರಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿ: 06.03.2024 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 07.03.2024ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17.00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ನಂತೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ (e-procurement portal) ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕುವೆಂಪುನಗರ, ಮೈಸೂರು (ಫೋನ್ ನಂ.0821–2560853) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/1198/2023-24

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರು

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಯೋಜನೆ) ಕಚೇರಿ

ದಿನಾಂಕ : 28/02/2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (kppp) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆ್ಯಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–3 & ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4 ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ (KPWD/ಇತರೆ) ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರಿಂದ Work ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ–ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (Two Electronic Tender System) ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (kppp) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ, ಸದರಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ / ದಾಖಲೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲ ವಿಳಾಸ http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29/02/2024 ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT16436 ಟೆಂ.ಮೊತ್ತ.ರೂ.303.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು /ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊ. ರೂ. 4,54,500/– ಅವಧಿ 11 ತಿಂಗಳು. 2) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMA/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT16439 ಟೆಂ.ಮೊತ್ತ.ರೂ.75.50 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು / ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊ. ರೂ. 1,51,000/– ಅವಧಿ 06 ತಿಂಗಳು.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಯೋಜನೆ) ಹು.ಧಾ.ಮ.ಪಾ ಸರ್. ಸಿದ್ದಪ್ಪ ಕಂಬಳಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತು ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04–03–2024 ರಂದು 16.00.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ,** ಸಂಭಾವ್ಯ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05–03–2024 ರಂದು 11.00.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ,** ಟೆಂಡರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07–03–2024 ರಂದು 16.30.00** ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08–03–2024 ರಂದು ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 16.35.00** ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ : 12–03–2024** ರಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಅಥವಾ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಯೋಜನೆ)
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ,
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ./ಧಾರವಾಡ/863/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ/2023–24.

Advertisement

UP The Unlimited Potential State

Uttar Pradesh is at the cusp of a transformational journey. The vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' given by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been the pillar of this metamorphosis. Major governance reforms, enhanced law and order, progressive policies and the development of modern greenfield infrastructure, including logistics facilities, airports, expressways, metro systems and industrial corridors, have collectively fostered a vibrant investment climate in the state. Aligning with the vision of the Prime Minister of making India a 5-trillion-dollar (USD) economy, the Yogi Adityanath government aims to be a major contributor by surging ahead to become a 1-trillion-dollar (USD) economy. The recently held GBC 4.0 bears testimony to this fact. Through the various reformative steps taken for creating a holistic ecosystem for industrial development and the formulation of more than 25 policies for attracting global investments, the state government has provided a conducive business environment.

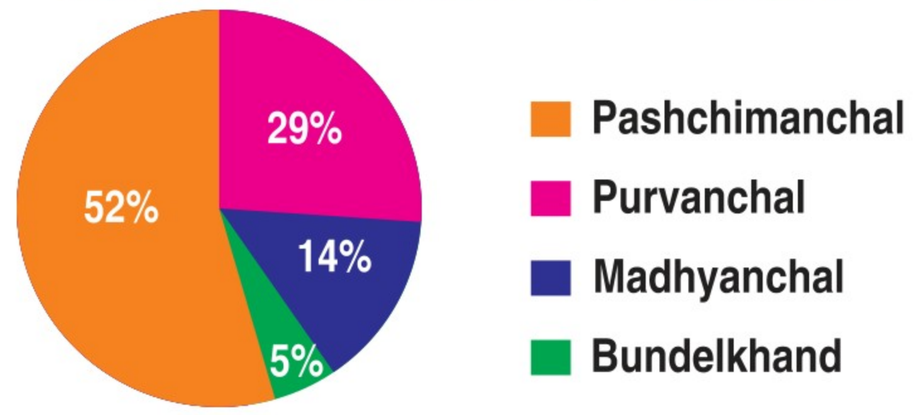
> Investment worth lakh of crores of rupees are pouring into Uttar Pradesh. Work is starting on thousands of projects in the state. These industries are going to change the face of UP. In the last 7 years, a red carpet culture has replaced the red tape culture. I have full faith in the power of UP and the hard work of the double engine government
>
> **-Narendra Modi,** Prime Minister

> Uttar Pradesh has recognised its talent and unlimited potential to become a state known for security, good governance and development. The state has assimilated respected Prime Minister's instructions on value addition and framed its policies. Transformation with speed is the new identity of UP
>
> **-Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh**

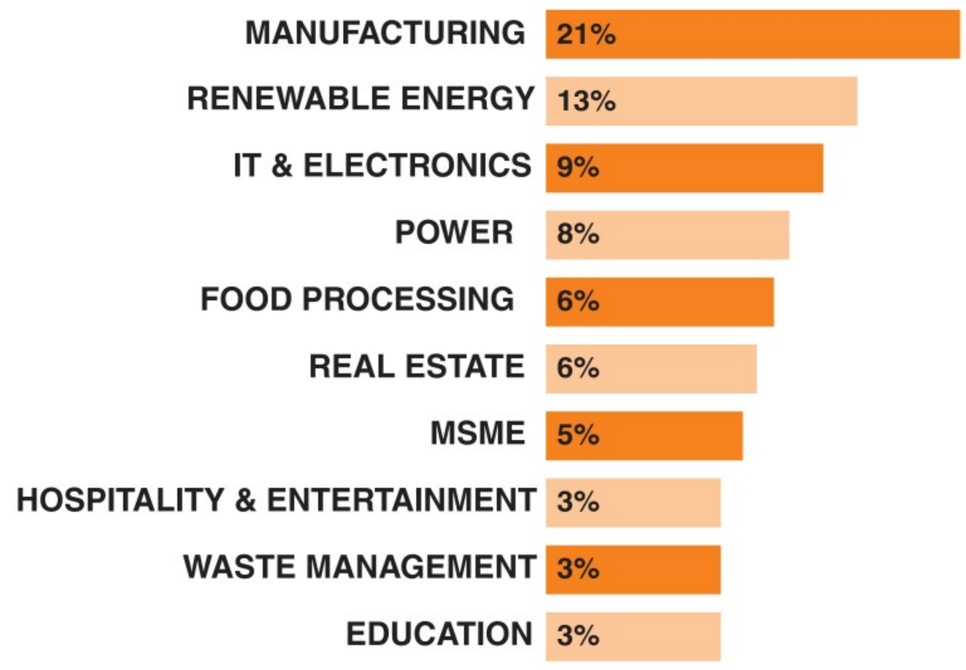
SUNRISE SECTORS GIVE WINGS TO UP'S $1 TRILLION ECONOMY GOAL

Data suggests that sunrise sectors have become a magnet for investment in Uttar Pradesh. These sectors encompass renewable energy, housing, electronics manufacturing, food processing, manufacturing and education. These projects will be spread across all four regions of the state. Western UP has attracted 52% of total investments, followed by Purvanchal (29%), Madhyanchal (14%) and Bundelkhand (5%).Nearly 21% of projects are in the manufacturing sector followed by renewable energy (13%), It & electronics (9%), power (8%) and food processing (6%).

REGIONWISE BREAKUP OF PROJECTS



TOP SECTORS



NEW INDIA'S GROWTH ENGINE
GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY @4.0
19 FEB 2024 • LUCKNOW
ACCELERATION FOR NATION

14.5 K MOUS TO CREATE JOBS FOR 34L YOUTHS

Investment More than	MOUs/Projects	Employment Opportunities
Rs. 10 Lakh crore	14,557	34 Lakh

The investment projects launched at the groundbreaking ceremony 4.0 will create 34 lakh jobs for the youth in the state. While the groundbreaking ceremony (GBC) spanned for a day, the business sessions were conducted for an additional two days. Once these projects come to fruition, they will put a cycle of development into action. When the projects take shape, they will put a cycle of development into action. Notably at least 6 districts Chandauli, Hardoi, Amethi, Bareilly, Gonda, and Fatehpur have been able to achieve a strike rate of 100% vis-a-vis targets for GBC. A key highlight for the event was an elaborate digital and innovative wall that captured the development journey of UP. Another attraction during the event was a laser light and curated drone show of 800 'Made in India' drones. The 15-20 minutes long show was held on all three days.

EXHIBITION, CONCLAVES SHOWCASE BEST OF UP

Spread across 1250sqm, the exhibition showcased the essence of the new Uttar Pradesh, highlighting the key features of the state and its investors. It included AI pavilions, textiles, logistics and warehousing, defence and aerospace, data centers/ electronics and IT, EV and renewable energy, film city, medical equipment, and ODOP (one district one product). The state government also organised two seminars on 'Corporate Social Responsibility' and 'FDI and Artificial Intelligence (AI)Unlocking Opportunities in UP.'An overview of CSR has been outlined to facilitate collaboration between the state government departments and renowned national and international companies. This seminar facilitated direct interaction with CSR heads of corporations, allowing them to gain insight into the impactful work being done by the respective departments and consider providing funds to support charitable causes. 6 departments, including women and child development, basic and secondary education, vocational education and skill development, UP State Rural Livelihood Mission, dairy development, and sports department, showcased steps being taken by them in line with the proposed projects in the state. The second section focussed on raising awareness about futuristic sectors such as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Artificial Intelligence (AI). The seminar on FDI and AI was chaired by CM Yogi Adityanath, aiming to provide a platform for industrialists, policymakers, and potential investors to discuss the opportunities related to FDI and the promotion of artificial intelligence in the state.

UP: RENEWABLE ENERGY POWERHOUSE

The Ground Breaking Ceremony 4.0 has ushered in a new era for Uttar Pradesh, transforming it into a renewable energy powerhouse. This milestone event signifies the start of pumped storage power (PSP) generation, propelling UP towards becoming a power-surplus state. The government's approval of 8 PSP projects, with 6 situated in Sonbhadra and 2 in Mirzapur and Chandauli districts, paves the way for significant progress.

PSP is a clean, green, safe, and environmentally friendly project that generates high-quality, flexible, and dispatchable power. The project does not transform or damage the riverine ecosystem. With low upfront costs and minimal power storage expenses, PSP is poised to bring about transformative changes.The event would kick off on 8 mega projects, boasting a collective capacity of 13,250 megawatts. Entities like Greenko Group producing 3660 MW, Torrent Group (4150 MW), JSW Neo Energy (1200 MW), ACME Cleantech Solutions (1500 MW), Amunra Infratech and Agritech Pvt Ltd (1620 MW) and Avaada Water Battery Pvt Ltd (1120 MW), are spearheading these initiatives, contributing to renewable energy sector's capacity in Uttar Pradesh.

UPSIDA BIGGEST CONTRIBUTOR
• ₹1.5L CRORE INVESTMENTS

The Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) is the primary contributor to the number of projects slated for launch during the upcoming Ground Breaking Ceremony 4.0. The authority has nearly Rs 1.5 lakh crore worth of MoUs for GBC in more than 45 districts. Approximately 3,500 industrial units with an investment of Rs 6,660 crore would be set up in industrial sectors in Mathura, Bulandshahr is projected to receive an investment of Rs 3,915 crore, followed by Amethi (Rs 1,693 crore), Meerut (Rs 1,455 crore), GB Nagar (Rs 1,129 crore) and Aligarh (Rs 213 crore)

ONLINE INCENTIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (OIMS)

To simplify the process of availing incentives under various policies promulgated by GoUP, a centralised "online incentive management system" under Nivesh Mitra has been developed for processing, sanctioning and disbursement of incentives.The portal enables businesses to select the policy and apply for incentives online. The portal also ensures that the incentive applications are processed online by the concerned departments and status of the application is updated at each step which will enable the applicant to track the status of incentive applications online.The portal also features a leadership monitoring dashboard, allowing the heads of relevant government departments to track the status of applications falling under various policies online. This system ensures that incentives for investors are sanctioned and disbursed in a time-bound and transparent manner.

ATTRACTIVE INCENTIVES

Land Rebate Capital Subsidy	Infrastructure Interest Subsidy	Stamp Duty Exemption
State Goods and Service Tax Refund		
Transportation Subsidy R & D Incentives Skill Development Subsidy		
Capital Interest Subsidy	Employees' Provident Fund Reimbursement	Electricity Duty Exemption

UP GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO ACHIEVE NEW MILESTONES

UP offers great opportunities in several sectors under the leadership of CM Yogi Adityanath. We decided to establish the biggest shopping mall in North India in Lucknow. We waited for the new government to learn about their policy. Once the group made a presentation before the chief minister office, the project was expedited. Yogi govt is committed to crossing new milestones. The middle east government is seriously considering investing in Uttar Pradesh.

MA Yusuff Ali, Chairman & MD, LuLu Group

GOT SUPPORT FROM GOVT IN DEALING WITH WATER AND POWER ISSUES

Thanks to constant collaboration between all stakeholders, the state's oxygen production policy was launched on time and we were able to expedite funding for the project. We have received the right support when we faced issued related to water or power supply. By offering financial incentives, tax benefits, infrastructure support, regulatory assistance through single-point contact, UP govt has taken the right decision to attract foreign investments.

Benoit Renard, Managing Director, Air Liquide India

INVESTMENT-FRIENDLY POLICIES OF UP GOVT

I am delighted to be in the land of Yamuna and Ganga and we would continue with our investments in UP and India. A man, family or an individual can invest their heart and money only if they are fully satisfied and assured their investments will be productive. Policy framework has been worked out here to encourage investments.

Sharafuddin Sharaf, Vice-Chairman, Sharaf Group

Information and Public Relations Department, U.P.

Studies by IISc scientists explore how attention and eye movements are linked

'The study counters previous ones which suggest that pre-saccadic attention is always beneficial'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A file photo of the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.

Two new studies from the Centre for Neuroscience, Indian Institute of Science, explore how closely attention and eye movements are linked and unveil how the brain coordinates the two processes.

According to IISc, attention is a unique phenomenon that allows us to focus on a specific object in our visual world and ignore distractions. "When we pay attention to an object, we tend to gaze towards it. Therefore, scientists have long suspected that attention is tightly coupled to rapid eye movements, called saccades. In fact, even before our eyes move towards an object, our attention focuses on it, allowing us to perceive it more clearly - a well-known phenomenon called pre-saccadic attention," IISc said.

However, in a new study published in *PLOS Biology*, the researchers at CNS show that this perceptual advantage is lost when the object changes suddenly, a split second before our gaze falls upon it, making it harder for us to process what changed. "Our study provides an interesting counterpoint to many previous studies which suggested that pre-saccadic attention is beneficial," said Devarajan Sridharan, associate professor at CNS and corresponding author of the study.

In the PLOS Biology study, Priyanka Gupta, PhD student in Mr. Sridharan's lab, trained human volunteers to covertly monitor gratings (line patterns) presented on a screen without directly looking at them and to report when one tilted slightly. "Importantly, the participants did this task just before their eyes moved in the pre-saccadic window. So, we were able to study the relationship between pre-saccadic attention and detection of changes in the visual environment," said Ms. Gupta.

A tracker was used to monitor their eye movements before, during and after their gaze fell on the object. "To our surprise, participants found it harder to detect the changes in the pre-saccadic window," Ms Gupta said.

In the other study published in *Science Advances*, carried out with collaborators at Stanford University, the researchers used an unusual experiment - this time, to decouple attention from eye movements - in monkeys. Their goal was to tease out what is happening in the brain while these processes play out.

The monkeys had been trained on a counter-intuitive task called an "anti-saccade" task. Like the human study, the monkeys covertly monitored several gratings on a computer screen without directly looking at them. But when anyone grating tilted slightly, the monkeys had to look away from it instead of focusing more sharply on it. This helped the researchers delink the location of the monkey's attention from the location where its gaze ultimately fell. IISc said researchers believe uncovering such brain signatures can point to what fails in attention disorders.

PDS distributors' commission raised

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday announced hike in commission amount for PDS distributors from ₹1.24 to ₹1.5 a kg of rice given to beneficiaries. This has been a long-pending demand of the distributors.

He made the announcement at an event organised to celebrate 10 years of the Anna Bhagya scheme at Palace Grounds in Bengaluru. The scheme was announced by Mr. Siddaramaiah during his first tenure as Chief Minister. Making Karnataka "hunger free" is the motive of the scheme, said the Chief Minister, adding it was "tragic" that the Opposition BJP had mocked a scheme meant for the poorest of poor.

"BJP wants to make India 'Congress mukta', but Congress wants to make India 'hasivu mukta' (hunger free)," he said.

Uday Express to run daily from March 5

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The frequency of Train No. 22665/22666 KSR Bengaluru-Coimbatore-KSR Bengaluru Uday Express, will be increased from six days a week to daily service with effect from March 5. At present, Uday Express operates on a six-day a week schedule, excluding Wednesday, according to a South Western Railway release.

Due to safety related works being undertaken between Nazirganj-Ujiarpur-Samastipur stations, the following trains will be regulated and diverted. Train No. 12578 Mysuru Darbhanga Bagmati weekly superfast express, the journey of which commences on March 1 will be regulated for 75 minutes. Train No. 15227 Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru-Muzaffarpur Express, the journey of which will commence from March 7, will be diverted to run via Khagaria, Singhiaghat, and Samastipur stations with skipped stoppages at Begusarai and Barauni stations.

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Sagar Forest Division, Sagar
Email: dcfsagar123@gmail.com Ph: 08183 - 226071
No.: A2/BGT/AW &SW/CR-14/2023-24 Date: 23.02.2024

e-Tender Notice Call – 02 (Through e-Procurement Portal)

Tender is invited through e-procurement portal in two cover system from interested Contractors for undertaking afforestation works (advance works) for the year 2024-25 as per Physical and Financial Targets fixed under CAMPA Scheme in Zones coming in the limits of Sagar Regional Forest Division and date is fixed on 01.03.2024 up to 4.30 PM. This office can be contacted for further information and details regarding the Tender can be obtained through official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Sagar Forest Division, Sagar

DIPR/smg/No.219/02/ksmca/23-24/1408

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project South, South Zone Office Complex, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560 011.
Telephone: 080-22975713 e-mail: eeprojectsouth@gmail.com

No: EEP(S)/E-Procu/22/2023-24 Date: 29.02.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (Service Tender)
(Through GOK kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only)

The Executive Engineer, (Project-South), BBMP, Bengaluru invites Bids for the following services from reputed Service Provider for the below work through e-portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Amount put to Tender (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Supply of table and chairs for Election work under the Jurisdiction of ADEO/RO BBMP(South) for Loksabha General Election 2024.	3,00,000/-	7,500/-

Calendar of Events: 1) Last date and time for uploading Online Queries in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in : **09.03.2024 upto 3.00 p.m.** 2) Last date and time for uploading tenders in e-portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in: **09.03.2024 upto 4.00 p.m.** 3) Date and time of opening tenders in the e-portal: **10.03.2024 at 4.30 p.m.**

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit e-Procurement portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Project South, BBMP

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Hebbal Division, 2nd Floor, BBMP Building, J.C. Nagar Main Road, Munireddy Palya, Bengaluru - 560032.

No: EE/HBL/TEND/15/2023-24 Date: 29-02-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, BBMP for the works mentioned below from the registered Contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-3)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Catagory
	Comprehensive Developments and Improvements to Roads & Drains below Wards
1	Kempaiah Layout 9th, 10th & 11th Cross and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 64, Vishwanatha Nagenahalli. **(Others)**
2	Cholanayakanahalli Main Road near SBI Bank and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 64, Vishwanatha Nagenahalli. **(ST)**
3	Vishweshwaraiah Layout (Naralappa Layout) and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 64, Vishwanatha Nagenahalli. **(Others)**
4	Gangamma Layout Main Road & Cross Road (Near Railway Track) and Surrounding Areas in Ward No.64, Vishwanatha Nagenahalli. **(Others)**
5	MR Garden and Chikkanna Compound 6th, 7th, 8th Cross Road and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 64, Vishwanatha Nagenahalli. **(Others)**
6	Rahamath Nagara and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 66, Chamundinagara. **(Others)**
7	Chamundinagara and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 66, Chamundinagara. **(SC)**
8	Kouser Nagar, Awalappa Block and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 66, Chamundinagara. **(Others)**
9	Babureddy Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 66, Chamundinagara. **(Others)**
10	Seethappa Layout, Venkataswamappa Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 66, Chamundinagara. **(SC)**

Sl.No. 1 to 10 Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100 each, EMD (in Rs.): Sl.No. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 & 9 - Rs. 2,00,000/- (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment balance **Rs. 1,00,000/-** through BG, BG should be Submitted before Opening of Technical Bid) **and Sl.No. 2, 7 & 10 - Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rs. 50,000/-** through e-Payment balance **Rs. 50,000/-** through BG, BG should be Submitted before Opening of Technical Bid)

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 01-03-2024. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **05-03-2024 at 15.00 Hours in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, J.C. Nagar Main Road, Bengaluru - 560032. 3)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals is **09-03-2024 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **10-03-2024 after 16.30 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, BBMP.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER & WILDLIFE WARDEN
CHANDAKA WILDLIFE DIVISION
GAJA VIHAR, BARAMUNDA, BHUBANESWAR - 751003
Email.ID: dfo.chandakawl@odisha.gov.in / chandakadampara@gmail.com

Notice No. 01 **CORRIGENDUM** **Dated. 29.02.2024**

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the tender No.01/2023-24 scheduled to be floated on 28.02.2024 through the website **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** could not be made. Hence the above tender stands cancelled.

Divisional Forest Officer, Chandaka Wildlife Division

MM-487 OIPR-08020/11/0003/2324

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File No.HO/Civil/T&E-E-5015/01/2023/ 6705 Dt.27.02.2024

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR

Bid Identification No.Civil/EST-64/2023-24

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Sports Complex at Sambalpur University, Burla, Sambalpur.
2. Value of the Work : Rs.6641.20 Lakhs (Approx.)
3. Period of Completion : 15 (Fifteen) Calendar Months
4. Availability of tender online for Bidding
   - I. Start Date : 18:00 Hours of dt. 28.03.2024
   - II. End Date : 17:00 Hours of dt. 19.04.2024
   - III. Opening date : 11:30 AM of dt. 20.04.2024

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: **www.tendersorissa.gov.in.** Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen **in e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website**.

Sd/- **Chief General Manager (Civil), IDCO, Bhubaneswar**

CAD-4397: OIPR-14003/11/0433/2324

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಖನಿಜ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಾನ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ–583101
Telephone: 08392-277100 Fax:08392-272538
Email:dmfbly@gmail.com

ಸಂ.ಕಂ.ಗಣಿ/ಡಿ.ಎಂ.ಎಫ್–2/284/2021–22 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.02.2024

E-Auction ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

2023–24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಖನಿಜ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಾನ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಖನಿಜ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ಎಂಡೋಮೇಂಟ್ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು Public Sector RRB ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಿರ ಠೇವಣಿ ಮಾಡಲು ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ **E-Auction** ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ Public Sector/RRB ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳು ಸದರಿ E-Auction ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.E-Auction RD/2023-24/Auction13 ದಸ್ತಾವೆಜ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ:**28.02.2024** ರಿಂದ **05.03.2024** ರ ಸಂಜೆ 04.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುತ್ತದೆ Events: 1.E-Auction Published Date Schedule: 28.02.2024@11.30 Am. 2.Date Of uploading bid Documents in e-portal: 28.02.2024@11.30 AM. 3. Pre Auction Meeting @ DMFT Cell,DC Office Bly: 02.03.2024@11.30 AM. 4. Last Date to uploading the Declaration in Schedule A&B along with adhering documents as requested: 05.03.2024 @4.00 PM.5. Evaluation of documents: 06.03.2024@04.05. PM 6. E-Auction start & End Date: 07.03.2024@10.00 AM to 07.03.2024 03.00 AM. 7. Probable date of investment confirmation to selected bank: 2nd week of March 2024.

E-Auction ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ವಿಶೇಷಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಖನಿಜ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಾನ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. (ದೂ.ಸಂ:08392–295468

ಸಹಿ/–ವಿಶೇಷಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಖನಿಜ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಾನ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ

DIPR/Ballari/922/KSMCA/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA email : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.

No:____/ **e-Procurement Notice for Bridge works** Date:____/

1. Name of the Work : **Construction of Roads & Bridges - (6 Nos)**
2. Class of Contractor : **"A" & "Special" Class** of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3. Estimated Cost : **Varies from Rs.477.80 Lakhs to Rs.1277.62 Lakhs (Approximately)**
4. Details projects as per Annexure attached :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bids
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	**CCERWCSBD - Online - 67/2023-24**	**04.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M.**	**18.03.2024 up to 05.00 P.M.**	**16.03.2024 up to 2.00 P.M.**	**19.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M.**	**To be intimated separately**

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site : **https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
6. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web site.

Chief Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.

Q-2698: OIPR-25182/11/0071/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur-760004
e-mail id : se_sicbam@yahoo.com

e - Procurement Notice No. ACE, RBB- 23 / 2023-24

1. Type of Work : **Flood Protection Work.**
2. Total No. of Works : **01 (One)** No.
3. Amount put to Tender : **Rs.816.91 Lakh**
4. Period of Completion : **12 (Twelve) Calendar months**

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Bid Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Availability & Submission of Bid On-line
Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur	**ACE, RBB, (BNID)-45/2023-24**	**816.91**	From **13.03.2024, 10.00 AM** to **27.03.2024, 5.00 PM**

Date of opening of the Technical Bid:- **28.03.2024 at 11.30 A.M.**
Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website "**www.tendersodisha.gov.in**".

Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur

A-1627: OIPR-32411/11/0030/2324

Government of Karnataka
(Forest Department)
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN PARK CUM MINI ZOO, KALABURAGI
Office Phone No. 08472 -256601 email:dcf_tgulbarga@yahoo.co.in

No. A7/ZOO/CIVILWORK/E-Tender/ /2023-24 Date: 28.02.2024

:: CALL-2 SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

1) Detail of works : POWER SUPPLY AND ELECTRIC WORK & SHIFTING OF POWER LINE AT NEW ZOOLOGICAL PARK AT MADBOOL CHITTAPUR TALUKA KALABURAGI, Indent No. : **ZAK/ 2023-24/OW/WORK INDENT48/Call-2,** Tender Amount : **Min. Rs. 122.00 Lakhs, Max. Rs. 122.00 Lakhs**, 2) Budget Head : **KKRDB (Macro),** 3) Eligibility of Contractor /firm: As per tender documents, 4) Details of Tender application Amount and EMD Amount: Tender Fee & EMD As per Tender Document, 5) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications : **05.03.2024 up to 4.00 PM**, 6) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tender :**07.03.2024 up to 5.00 PM,** 7) Date &Time for opening of Technical Bid : **11.03.2024 after 5.30 PM**, 8) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid : **12.03.2024 after 4.00 PM**, 9) Add. Information: DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHILDREN PARK CUM MINI ZOO, KALABURAGI, 10) Address of E- Portal : **http:kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests &
Executive Director of Children Park Cum Mini Zoo, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/924/KSMC&A/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HINDU RELIGIOUS & CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT
O/o COMMISSIONER, NUNGAMBAKKAM, CHENNAI - 600 034.

NOTICE No: 287149 /2024/Y2, Date 29.02.2024

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest (EOI) in sealed envelope are invited by the Commissioner, HR&CE Department, Chennai-34 from Reputed Companies who have requisite technical Knowledge, Competence, Experience and Financial Capability for the work Detailed below.

a) Tender Notice No :	**NOTICE No : 287149 /2024/Y2 Dated 29.02.2024**
b) Name of work :	Providing consultancy services towards 1. Arriving design, framing specifications 2. Facilitating evaluation procedures for the execution of a suitable type Passenger ropeway on TURNKEY basis for the following locations. 1. Palani Hill to Idumban Hill at Palani, Dindigul District **(Capacity 800 PPH).** 2. Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Temple, Anuvavi, Periyathadakam, Coimbatore District. **(Capacity 400 PPH).** 3. Arulmigu Vethagiriswarar Temple, Thirukazhukundram, Chengalpattu District. **(Capacity 400 PPH).** 4. Arulmigu Aranganatha Perumal Temple, Thiruneermlai, Chengalpattu District. **(Capacity 400 PPH)** 5. Arulmigu Kasi Viswanathar Temple, Thiruparankudram, Madurai District. 6. Arulmigu Ilayaperumal (a) Venkatramanaswamy Temple, Korakuttai, Namakkal District.
c) Last date for Receipt of EOI :	Up to **15.00 hrs** as per office clock on **07.03.2024** at office of the Commissioner, HR & CE Department, Chennai-34.
d) Date, time & venue of opening of EOI :	**16.00 hrs** as per office clock on **07.03.2024** at office of the Commissioner, HR & CE Department, Chennai-34.

For detailed information, please visit our website **www.hrce.tn.gov.in** and **www.tntenders.gov.in**

For the award of the contract, the bidder should fulfil the following qualification requirements in addition to the other qualification requirements given in our website. Minimum experience in this field shall be not less then 15 years.

COMMISSIONER

DIPR / 1285 / Tender / 2024

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER, TEL BASIN, BHAWANIPATNA, DIST.KALAHANDI
E-mail Id :- cetelbasinbhp@gmail.com / Phone No: 06670-230209

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-Procurement Notice No:- CE&BM, TEL - 15/2023-24
Bid Identification No: CETEL-BID-07/2023-24

The Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Tel Basin, Bhawanipatna on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on-line **percentage rate tender** through e-procurement in **double cover system.**

Table - 1: Details of Critical Dates, details of work, Bid Security

Pkg. No.	Name of works	Approx. Tender Cost	Class of Contractor	Bid Security/ EMD-(online) (in INR)	Cost of tender document (online) (in INR)	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	**Construction of F.P.E. on Under left from Kholan to Ghodar RD 00 M to 3100 M.**	**Rs.6,19,04,515/- (Excluding G.S.T)**	**'A' & 'Special' Class**	**Rs.6,19,045/-**	**Rs.10,000/-**	**12 (Twelve) Calendar Months**

Table-2 : e-Procurement Details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender on-line for bidding From	To	Date of Seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid	Place of Opening
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Tel Basin, Bhawanipatna	**CETEL-BID 07/2023-24**	**Dt.07.03.2024 at 10.00 hours**	**Dt.03.04.2024 up to 17.30 hours**	**Dt.07.03.2024 to 28.03.2024 at Office during office hours**	**Dt.04.04.2024 at 11.00 Hours**	**To be intimated after evaluation of Technical Bid**	**Office of Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Tel Basin, Bhawanipatna**

Further details can be seen from the Govt. Web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in
*Other Terms & conditions can be seen from the Government website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
*The Corrigendum/ cancellation of Tender, if any, will be uploaded and can be seen from the above website only.

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Tel Basin, Bhawanipatna

A-1633: OIPR-32317/11/0017/2324

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 Fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/Mech/1825/1841/2023-24 **Date: 29-02-2024**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender from the eligible suppliers / manufacturers through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below.The interested and reputed suppliers / manufacturers who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.inand also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty	EMD (Rs.)	Period of completion
1	Supply& Laying of Electrical UG Cables for Borewell and related works to NSS,Hesaraghatta	1 Job	17,500/-	2 Months
2	Boiler Tube Replacement and related works to Cattle Feed Plant Hassan	1 Job	50,000/-	3 Months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: 01-03-2024 to 11-03-2024 up to 4.00 pm.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date:11-03-2024 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 12-03-2024 at 4:30 pm.

For Karnataka Co-Op. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

M BG-BGE

Bescom records all-time peak demand for February

The peak demand of 8,128 megawatts was recorded on February 23

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

As an indication of the impending situation in peak summer months, the electricity demand in the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) region peaked at an all-time high of 8,128 megawatts (MW) for the month of February.

The peak demand was recorded on February 23. Interestingly, even in the previous year, the peak demand for February – at 7,496 MW – was recorded on the same date. In the Bengaluru Metropolitan Area Zone (BMAZ), while the previous year's peak demand for February was 3,259 MW, this year, it was 3,518 MW.

"There are three main reasons for the increase in demand – rising temperature, agricultural and industrial requirements," said S.R. Nagaraj, General Manager, Consumer Relations, Bescom. "As the weather has already become hot, consumers have increased their usage of fans and air conditioners. The same is the case with large industries. Moreover, without rain, agricultural pump sets are also using more electricity. Hence the peak demand has shot up,"

Even in the previous year, the peak demand for February — at 7,496 MW — was recorded on the same date. FILE PHOTO

he added. The peak demand for March is estimated to be 8,300 MW and it may continue climbing in April and May.

However, if there is good rainfall before that, the demand may reduce, the official said. He also assured that despite increased demand, there will be no load shedding as the government has made arrangements for adequate power supply.

"There is no need for farmers, industries, students (who are writing examinations) and any other consumers to worry as there will be no load shedding this year," Mr. Nagaraj added.

Even as Bescom officials continue to claim that there are no unnecessary power cuts, consumers report otherwise.

Power cut complaints

Hundreds of complaints have been pouring in on social media pages of the power utility and the consumer helpline number. I

In fact, on February 28, the helpline received 19,678 calls out of which docket was registered for over 9,400 power-supply related complaints. The helpline gets around 10,000 complaints a day, of which most are related to power supply according to officials.

"They claim every year that there will be no power cuts during summer. But, as the days go by, we experience the same kind of unofficial load shedding every year. There are frequent power cuts and officials always say that it is related to maintenance," said Shravani. M, a resident of BTM layout.

Mr. Nagaraj said that as it is the examination season, Bescom is not even taking up quarterly maintenance to not cause inconvenience to students. "Unless it is emergency maintenance, we are not cutting power supply in any area. If they are experiencing power cuts, consumers can complain to us and we will resolve it immediately," he said.

Consumers can soon generate their own power bills in State

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

A meter reader from a power utility going to a consumer's house to read their electricity meter and provide them with a bill will be a thing of the past from June. In the tariff order that was passed for the financial year 2024-25, the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission has asked distributing companies to develop digital modalities (software) for self-reading meters to help consumers generate their own bills.

Self-billing will be effective in Karnataka from June 1 for LT consumers as per the Commission's directives. "With the removal of slabs, it has become easier for consumers to read their meters.

The consumers can take a photo of the meter, upload it on the software and upload their reading details. Accordingly, their bill will be generated and then can make the payment," said P. Ravikumar, Chairman, KERC.

With the self-billing mechanism, the norm of paying bills only once a month will not be so rigid anymore.

"Consumers can check and pay their bills once in 10 or 15 days or they may choose to pay it the usual way of once a month. It will be compulsory to pay the bill at least once a month. Instead of going every month, meter readers from electricity supply companies (escom) can go once in six months and verify," Mr. Ravikumar said.

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission has also asked Escoms to set up systems that are required for optional prepaid metering from April 1. FILE PHOTO

The Commission has also asked Escoms to set up systems that are required for optional prepaid metering from April 1.

Speaking about the self-billing mechanism, M.G. Prabhakar, a former member of the advisory committee, KERC, said, "We are moving into the era of smart meters where everything will become automatic. In such times, this self-billing will help consumers at places where meter reading is not done regularly. It can help consumers manage their energy requirements. This is also one way of ensuring energy conservation as consumers will be more aware of their usage when they regularly check their meters."

Reduce tussle

A senior from Bescom said simplification of tariffs by reducing the slabs will also curb the tussle between Escoms and consumers. "This (simplification) will take away the discretion at the lower level regarding slab classification. More importantly, this will reduce harassment and litigation regarding tariff classification," said Darshan. J, Director of Finance, Bescom. "Sometimes when the electricity bill goes higher than our expectations, we immediately think if there was some mistake with the meter reading. If there is a mechanism where we can do it ourselves, we will be relieved of our doubts and also help us trust power distributing companies more," said Suhas P., a resident of R.R. Nagar.

Tax evasion racket: Fourth accused nabbed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Continuing investigations into scrap cartel and tax evasion cases busted in January this year, commercial tax sleuths on Thursday arrested the fourth accused after a month-long chase. A special team of officials were on the hot pursuit of offenders of the cartel involved in fake transactions of scrap goods and have arrested four people so far. With this, the department said it has successfully busted the fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) racket involving nearly 100 firms having turnover of ₹1,008 crores and tax amount of nearly ₹180 crore.

The team had arrested Mohammad Siddiq, the mastermind of the racket, in January, along with his associates, Imtiaz and Sameer Pasha. The fourth accused, identified as Soni Vishwas, was arrested after a month-long chase.

According to the officials, the accused constantly changed locations by crisscrossing the States. He managed to secure multiple mobile SIM cards with the help of his acquaintances. Based on reliable information, he was tracked on a real-time basis by several teams of officers.

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswaraiah Towers, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001.
Phone No: 080 - 29565353, 29566556, 29604556 E-mail: splocaima21@gmail.com

REVISED NOTICE / INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable Properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court the Special Officer & Competent Authority (under KPIDFE - IMA and other Scam), is issuing notice for e-Auction of the immovable property through e-Auction on **'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.**

The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each material lot / auction in the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE PROPERTY	RESERVE PRICE (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Bid Increase Value (Rs.)	Clear Title
1	All the piece and parcel of land measuring in Sy.No. 188 Hissa No. A2 of Kangrali K.H village, Belagavi city, measuring 15 guntas 03 ana, Bounded on: **East :** Sy.No 187, 189 **West :** Hindalaga Seeme **North :** Sy.No.190, 191 **South :** Kabaja Belagavi Seeme Google Map link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/nNgYtZZ1X5eYukqr5 Latitude and Longitude: 15°52'41.7"N 74°29'15.5"E	2,45,51,505/-	24,55,150/-	2,45,500/-	Clear Title by Court in order MISC No. 966/2023 and RTC stands in the name of Assistant Commissioner & Competent Authority, M/s. The Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Urban Co-Operative Credit Society
2	All the piece and parcel of land & red tiled building in CTS No. 3546 of Resildargalli, Belagavi city, measuring 528-43 sq.mtr (2000 Sq.ft house building & 3686 Aq.ft vacant space total 5686 sq.ft), Bounded on: **East :** Land of Sri Ghatagi & Appugol, CTS No 3545 wall **West :** CTS No. 3547 wall **North :** Bangi Passage **South :** Road Google Map link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/JYcKfgkv5kg4yBzx6 Latitude and Longitude: 15°51'43.3"N 74°30'42.3"E	2,41,65,500/-	24,16,550/-	2,41,700/-	
3	All the piece and parcel of land in Sy.No 188/C, CTS No. 2324, Kangrali K.H village, Hanuman Nagar, Belagavi City, measuring 443.04 Sq.ft (out of 9398.62 Sq.mtr) Bounded on: **East :** Re. Sy No.187 **West :** Road **North :** Re Sy.No.188/B **South :** Re Sy.No.188/D Google Map link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/Nog4s7bCy5dGwccZ8 Latitude and Longitude: 15°52'42.7"N 74°29'16.9"E	1,00,14,648/-	10,01,465/-	1,00,300/-	
4	All the piece and parcel of land in Re Sy.No 78/4, measuring 0-14 guntas of Ambadagatti Village, Kitturu Hobli, Kitturu Taluk (previously Bylahongala Taluk) Belagavi District. Bounded on: **East :** Land belonging to SathappaJavali **West :** Land belonging to ErappaKotagi **North :** By Government Road **South :** Land belonging to SathappaJavali Google Map link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/9LpJUtn9dXEMvAfF9 Latitude and Longitude: 15°37'55.2"N 74°45'10.9"E	8,75,000/-	87,500/-	8,750/-	
5	All the piece and parcel of land in Re Sy.No. 163/2, measuring 5 Acre 01 guntas of Tadasaluru Village, Murugodu Hobli, Savadatthi Taluk Belagavi District. Bounded on: **East :** Land of Sri Parameshwara Kattimani **West :** Land of Sri Basappa C Gowdra **North :** By Road **South :** By Road Google Map link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/NnzUJViU1ukRvmURA Latitude and Longitude: 15°55'28.0"N 74°54'14.3"E	1,40,70,000/-	14,07,000/-	1,40,700/-	
6	All the piece and parcel of land measuring 04 Acres 03 Guntas in Sy.No. 191/1+2K in Ambadagatti Village, Kitur Taluk (Previously named as Bylahongala Taluk), Belagavi District. Bounded on: **East :** Land belonging to Udaya Kalappa Pattara(Hittalu) **West :** Land belonging to gangayya Guruvaiah **North :** Land belonging to chidananda Pattara **South :** Land belonging to Rayappa Dasthikoppa Google Map link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/3vF74ythrwT85R3N6 Latitude and Longitude: 15°38'00.6"N 74°43'39.5"E	40,75,000/-	4,07,500/-	40,750/-	
7	All the Piece and Parcel of land measuring 03 Acres 14 Guntas in Sy.No 119/1 in K.K Koppa Village, Bagevadi Hobli, Belagavi Taluk, Belagavi District. Bounded on: **East :** Land belonging to Siddappa Somayya keshappagola **West :** Cart Track **North :** Land belonging to Chambappa Kalabhavi **South :** Land belonging to Somayya Kambi Google Map link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/bbQn7XuEWo74xkX9A Latitude and Longitude:15°46'34.5"N 74°34'60.0"E	26,80,000/-	2,68,000/-	26,800/-	
8	All the Piece and Parcel of land measuring 01 acres 25 Guntas in Sy.No 10/1A/1 in Ankalagi Village, Bagevadi Hobli, Belagavi District. Bounded on: **East :** Property belonging to Shivappa Jakkati **West :** Property belonging to Portdhar Avaroli **North :** Government Naala **South :** Property belonging to Shivappa Jakkati Google Map link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/SvQQqd89BTLuffPTA Latitude and Longitude:15°44'06.9"N 74°35'10.0"E	16,25,000/-	1,62,500/-	16,250/-	
9	All the Piece and Parcel of land measuring 01 Acres 29 Guntas in Sy.No. 115/1+5+6/2/3 in K.K Koppa Village, Belagavi Taluk, Belagavi District, Bounded on: **East :** Land belonging to Suresh Dotre **West :** Land belonging to Bassu Bavantha Godala Kundaragi **North :** Land belonging to Balappa Chandrappa Godala Kundaragi **South :** Land belonging to Neelakanta Godala Kundaragi Google Map link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/XF6RpfTu6UkBENi96 Latitude and Longitude: 15°46'40.7"N 74°35'16.5"E	17,25,000/-	1,72,500/-	17,250/-	
10	All the piece and parcel of land in Re Sy. No. 237/4 of Chikkalagudda village, Sankewara Hobli, Hukkeri Taluk, Belagavi District measuring 1 Acre 34 guntas Bounded on: **East :** Water pond **West :** By NH-4 Road **North :** Land of Paras Bharamappa Gadi **South :** Land of Tayavva Shankar Karasutti Google Map link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/pjCjBLxUVYJdkFE87 Latitude and Longitude: 16°11'08.2"N 74°31'11.2"E	55,50,000/-	5,55,000/-	55,500/-	Clear Title by Court in order MISC No.965/ 2023 and RTC stands in the name of Assistant Commissioner & Competent Authority, M/s. The Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Urban Co-Operative Credit Society
11	All the piece and parcel of agricultural land bearing R.S.No. 633 of Belagavi Village, Belagavi Taluk, Belagavi District totally measuring 03 acres 04 guntas 11.81 guntas, bounded as stated below: **East :** R.S. No.637 **West :** National High Way Service Road **North :** R.S.No.634 **South :** R.S.No.622 Google Map link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/Z7YRsNHBt47zKnmj7 Latitude and Longitude: 15°50'26.5"N 74°32'35.1"E	7,75,00,000/-	77,50,000/-	7,75,000/-	Clear Title by Court in order MISC No. 209/2023

Date of Pre Bid Meeting & Time and Place	Date of Inspection and Time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD Submission	Date and Time of E-Auction
2nd April 2024, 3.00 PM to 4.00 PM Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	3rd April 2024 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM	4th April 2024 until 5.00 PM	5th April 2024 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Helpdesk No: 080 - 46010000, 080 - 68948777).** The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact **Joint Secretary, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority,** 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001, e-mail ID: **splocaeauction@gmail.com** or Contact Mobile No: **8217203930.**

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(Under KPIDFE - IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 28-02-2024

DIPR/CP/3957/2023-24

M BG-BGE

Getty Images/iStockphoto

More children becoming victims of cyberbullying

Easier access to the internet has resulted in children becoming more vulnerable to harassment by strangers online. With doctors in Bengaluru, the country's IT powerhouse, reporting an increase in the incidence of cyberbullying, **Jahnavi T.R.** speaks to parents, health professionals, and law enforcement personnel to understand the gravity of situation

"My daughter recently became hesitant to attend school, and when this behaviour persisted, we suspected something was amiss. Seeking help from experts at a hospital, we were deeply disturbed to learn that she had been a victim of cyberbullying," said Anjana (name changed on request), a mother of a victim of cyberbullying at a school in Bengaluru.

Curiosity among children is often an appreciated quality. But if mental health professionals and the police are to be believed, this inherent curiosity is what has led to a growing problem of cyberbullying in the city.

Anjana further expressed her concerns. "It is incredibly concerning that so many children fall prey to online harassment, leaving them with trust issues at a crucial age when they should be enjoying carefree time with friends. Often unaware of who takes and abuses their pictures online, these children suffer silently, unsure how or when to seek help. The lack of measures to monitor the impact of excessive and unsupervised screen time on children is the key factor that is making several children vulnerable to cyberbullying at school."

> In the Southeast Division, we have seen over 20 cases of cyber harassment among students in the last two years.
>
> **C.K. BABA**
> Deputy Commissioner of Police

Being the IT capital of the country, Bengaluru indeed has its advantages when it comes to tech and digital advancements. However, this increased digital accessibility, which is also common to other major urban cities in the country, along with a long list of benefits, has also brought along an equally long list of problems. With children's exposure to smartphones and the internet increasing with the advent of COVID-19 and online classes, mental health professionals across Bengaluru have noticed an uptick in cases of cyberbullying among children in the last two years.

At some hospitals, the number of such cases has increased by at least 10% in the last couple of years. "I have seen at least 30 to 40 such cases in the last year. Due to COVID-19, children got more access to digital devices, but there was limited or no monitoring of the same. Cyberbullying has now become a growing concern among tweens (pre-teenagers between the age group of 8-12 years) and teenagers," said Anitha Bharathan, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Cadabams Group.

What is cyberbullying

Cyberbullying among children is not very different from what happens to adults, doctors say. Bullying can come in the form of insults, harassment, denigration, hoaxing, cyber pursuit and impersonation, among others. The doctors also said this bullying often leads to mental health issues like anxiety, depression, paranoia, loneliness, and psychosis, and, in severe cases, can even bring about suicidal tendencies.

Manoj Sharma, Professor of Clinical Psychology and coordinator of SHUT clinic, NIMHANS, recalled a case from around two years ago. "An adolescent girl was being bullied on social media platforms. She was on it very early and had got into communication with an unknown person. The unknown person demanded an offline meeting, and when the meeting happened, she realised that he was different from what he had projected on social media. Subsequently, she tried to move on, but he started cyberbullying her."

He added, "She carried the distress, and it became so significant that it started affecting her biological function and even led to suicidal tendencies. The family eventually approached us for mental health issues."

Bharathan also said cyberbullying can also lead to psychosomatic problems like headaches, sleep and appetite issues, and digestion problems." She added that along with psychological and physical impacts, cyberbullying can also lead to increased substance use and have an effect on children's studies. "Children might show hesitancy to go to school. Their grades might drop drastically," she said.

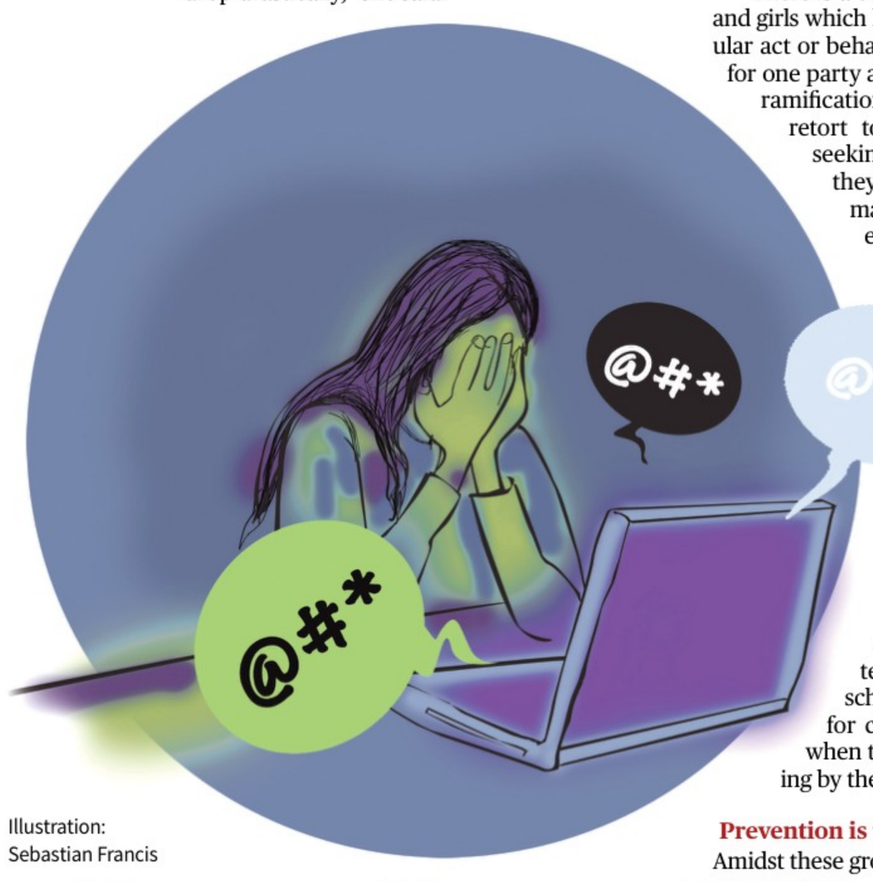

Illustration: Sebastian Francis

What leads to cyberbullying

Speaking about the two kinds of children who are involved in bullying, Harsha G.T., Consultant Psychiatrist, Manipal Hospital, Yeshwanthpur, said, "The first set of children are the ones who have anxious traits and fall prey to such bullying. The other kind are those who are hyperactive and inattentive and bully others on an impulse."

While acknowledging that there was an increase in cyberbullying cases post-pandemic, Harsha said that the root of both the problems and solutions in such cases lies in parenting. "Such behaviours usually arise out of curiosity among children who are not exposed to many things. While mobile restriction can help control problems like cyberbullying, parents should also remain close to their children and be permissive enough for them to talk to parents."

Mental health professionals shared the consensus that parents should be more involved in their children's mobile usage and constantly monitor the apps and websites they access. They also said that parents, while setting ground rules, must also be open-minded if their children approach them about the issues they face online. More importantly, they noted that reporting cases is the need of the hour.

Despite seeing some cases, doctors said not many parents approach professionals when it comes to cyberbullying. "Children carry the distress that comes with it and do not really take formal help. Families usually try to reassure them. Hence, by the time they reach out to us, the problem would have gotten bigger," Sharma said.

Doctors are not the only ones who have seen the underreporting of cyberbullying cases. Police officials also said the number of cases registered was fewer when compared to the cases that occur.

"In the Southeast Division, we have seen over 20 cases of cyberharassment among students in the last two years. However, the first issue that comes with minors and teenagers is that the parents are not very open to the idea of registering cases, even when there are clear cases of cyberbullying or cyberstalking. Parents have their apprehensions as they want to protect their children, especially when the victim is a girl," said C.K. Baba, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Southeast division, Bengaluru.

Baba also said among the cases of cyberharassment he has dealt with in his jurisdiction, curiosity among children often leads to certain behaviours.

"There is a certain curiosity among both boys and girls which leads them to indulge in a particular act or behaviour. It may be an innocent act for one party as they might not be aware of the ramifications. The other party might then retort to blackmailing, threatening or seeking more favours. That is when they realise it is becoming problematic, and even in such situations, especially if they are of the same age, they try to deal with it amongst themselves," he said.

Apart from children, he said students from many reputed colleges have also fallen victims to cyber harassment.

Medical professionals and law enforcement officers stressed the need for schools to educate children about the importance of cybersecurity and the perils that come with internet usage. They also said schools should become a safe space for children to share such concerns when they are being subjected to bullying by their classmates.

Prevention is the key, say schools

Amidst these growing concerns, schools say they have become proactive and preempt children getting cyber bullied. Along with in-house counsellors, they also reportedly bring in cyber experts to educate children.

"We have noticed that children are on social media from sixth grade onwards. We have an adolescent education programme where, along with the physical aspects of growing up, students are also taught about online presence and how the things posted there are permanent and other cyber dangers. We also tell them about the apps they should not access (while using their parents' phones)," said Malathy. R. Narayan, principal, National Public School, Rajajinagar, in west Bengaluru.

"We also tell children the differences between teasing and bullying. All of these things are a year-long exercise. To educate parents, we also conduct orientation for them to put parental locks on phones for certain apps and websites," she added.

Tips from experts

For children
- Don't talk to strangers
- Don't get complacent
- Block and report online bullies
- Protect your identity online
- Beware of suspicious messages
- Clean your contacts regularly
- Be aware that anything shared on the internet is shared forever

For parents
- Set ground rules for online usage
- Talk to children about how and why you would monitor their online use
- Restrict and monitor the content usage
- Encourage your child to talk to you if they experience anything negative
- Teach the kids how to take steps to be proactive online
- Don't forget the positives of using the internet

Source: Cadabams Group

Schools also conduct various programmes to create awareness among students about what constitutes bullying and provide them with an opportunity to report their issues anonymously, like a confidential drop box for instance.

"We conduct workshops on cyber safety and cyberbullying where experts talk to children about cyber crimes. We also have our own cyber policy, which students, parents and teachers are all aware of," said Nooraine Fazal, Co-founder, CEO and Managing Trustee of Inventure Academy, which runs many educational institutions in the city. She also said that the school does circle time to provide students with a safe space to share their concerns.

Along with such measures, Baba said the best way to prevent children from getting cyberbullied is by creating awareness among teenagers through comprehensive educational programmes.

"The programme should involve the personal safety of the child and also inform the minors about the dangers of cyberbullying. Like how children are getting educated about POCSO at school levels, the programme should educate them about responsible online behaviour," he said.

Creation of awareness

Priyank Kharge, IT and BT Minister, Karnataka, said that with various demographics of people falling prey to cybercrimes, the State government is working on creating awareness among people with various programmes. "We have tied up with Meta to educate students in over a thousand colleges to educate them about cyber safety. We are also designing programmes to educate students about cyberbullying, cybercrimes, digital financial literacy and safe game servers. We are trying to make the cyber space a safe space for everyone," he said.

Pragati Dalvi Jain's solo exhibition, which commences in Bengaluru on March 2, features still, mobile and interactive art works

Voices from within

Shilpa Anandraj
shilpa.anandraj@thehindu.co.in

Pragati Dalvi Jain was born in Indore, studied in Mumbai and made Bengaluru her home post marriage. She has been interested in capturing and portraying her surroundings through art. "It can be on a canvas, a mobile or interactive work."

Her solo show, Shapes of Unseen Voices, opens on March 2. "It has been over a decade since I started working around women and empowerment. The show explores how women of my generation and the elderly see them. Are they seen, unseen or are they somewhere in the grey area?"

Shapes of Unseen Voices, Pragati says is also about how perceptions change. "We pay attention to our house help, their lives, routine and the time they come into our homes, only if they work for us. Else we are in no way connected to them or these thoughts." The 39-year-old artist, has a Bachelor in Fine Arts (2007) and a Master in Fine Arts Painting (2009) from Sir JJ School of Art, Mumbai.

Shapes of Unseen Voices, Pragati explains, centres around her recent multidisciplinary body of work, comprising conceptual and performative photographs, sculptural and video installations, a live performance and paintings.

Curated by Nalini S Malaviya, the show will feature a work titled Can't Remember Love. "It is an immersive performance piece that explores love as an emotion, its layers and complexities, and its reciprocation or lack thereof. Interacting with a mannequin and attempting to elicit a response – expectation and rejection form extremities of the interaction, defining the composite nature of relationships."

The show opens with a performance piece, The Chase, in collaboration with a senior textile designer, Jayshree Poddar. "We walk in opposite directions along an infinite loop at our own pace. She is 67-years-old and our movements leave the audience wondering if she is chasing youth or I am chasing her wisdom. It shows that we are all in some kind of a chase."

Performance pieces, Pragati explains are different from performing arts as these are conceptual. It is unpredictable and so is the response. It involves an interaction with the audience; I may know the beginning, but not the end."

Shapes of Unseen Voices is at Chitrakala Parishat from March 2 to 6, between 11am to 7pm.

A woman's world Pragati and her work. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

STEPOUT

Children's day out

Atta Galatta presents Tulika Day, a children's festival by Tulika Books. The event commences with a treasure hunt, followed by an animation workshop by illustrator Priyankar Gupta, a book launch by children's author Menaka Raman titled *How Do We Name This Dog* and a storytelling session by Vikram Sridhar.
Tickets on BookMyShow or call 9632510126.
On March 2, 1pm onwards at Atta Galatta.

Breathe fire

Foo, the Asian Tapas restaurant chain, has launched its Fiery Edition Menu. The food, with lots of spice also is said to come infused with perfect seasoning. It features 14 new dishes and four new cocktails.
The limited-edition menu is available for dining and delivery across all Foo outlets in Bengaluru till March 31.

Echoes of past faults

Introspective A still from *Silvatein*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Silvatein: The Wrinkles in Time, a poignant Hindi play penned and directed by Shatarupa Bhattacharyya, is a 75-minute journey through the complexities of failed relationships.

This theatrical experience features actors Ujani Ghosh and Sagnik Sinha as they navigate a relationship marred by incompatibility and misunderstanding. Parag Mani also plays a crucial role in this introspective narrative.

The play delves into the aftermath of a failed relationship, exploring the misfortune of incompatibility that seeps into interactions, causing irreparable harm.

As the characters of Arijit and Rupali unfold on stage, their interactions underscore the themes of regret, distrust, and the search for closure.

Silvatein, according to the makers, is not just a play but an experience that compels the audience to confront their own pasts, reflecting on the intricate dance of relationships.

The play will be staged on March 9 at Medai, Koramangala. Tickets on BookMyShow.

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BENGALURU HAPPENINGS

INBRIEF

Marithibbe Gowda likens BJP to a 'crocodile'

Expressing his disapproval over the Janata Dal (Secular)'s alliance with the BJP, senior JD(S) member Marithibbe Gowda on Thursday said he was sad that his party leaders had gone with the BJP. Likening the BJP to a crocodile, he said: "Our leaders are riding the crocodile and have travelled too far. I am worried if they will reach the bank safely. I am sad that they decided to go with BJP." Incidentally, Mr. Gowda has already distanced himself from the party and has taken an independent stand on the floor of the House. He is speculated to move to the Congress.

One too many 'jayantis'

Former Minister and BJP member A.H. Vishwanath *(in picture)* on Thursday urged the State government to drop all 'jayantis' that the government currently observes. He said, "The State observes 36 jayantis annually and officials spend 72 days, including days for preparatory meetings. How can you speed up administration and bring development? Not all of us participate in all jayantis that have become caste-specific. Basavanna jayanti is attended by Lingayats and Kanakadasa jayanti is attended by Kurubas. Let us observe a few national festivals and do away with jayantis," he said. He also urged the State government to recommend former Chief Minister late D. Devaraj Urs for Bharat Ratna award. Welcoming Bharath Ratna for Karpoori Thakur, he said Urs has done equal work in development and bringing social justice. The government should also recommend late Siddaganga seer Shivakumara Swami, he said.

Private member's Bill on cloud seeding gets nod

The Legislative Assembly on Thursday unanimously approved the Karnataka Cloud Seeding Bill, 2024, a private member's Bill, for carrying out cloud seeding to mitigate drought. Congress member Prakash Koliwad moved the Bill during Zero Hour and explained that cloud seeding would increase rainfall by at least 20%. Cloud seeding would have to be done during monsoon for 90 days and it would cost ₹30 crore to the State exchequer. By enhancing rainfall by 20%, Mr. Koliwad said crop damage would be reduced to an extent worth ₹7,000 crore.

The State had declared 223 taluks out of 236 as drought-hit and sought ₹18,177.44 crore from NDRF from the Centre. T.B. Jayachandra, former Minister, suggested to the government to examine the Bill and consider carefully the impact and success of cloud seeding. Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil defended the Bill and said the S.M. Krishna-led government had taken up cloud seeding for 83 days in 2003 and it was successful. Mr. Patil said the Bill would be forwarded to the Governor.

Metro: Tender called for preparing feasibility report

The State government on Thursday told the Legislative Assembly that tenders have been called to prepare a feasibility report on extending the metro rail connectivity from Nagasandra to Nelamangala. The reply was made by Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda *(in picture)* on behalf of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to a call attention notice tabled by Congress member K.N. Srinivasaiah. When the member expressed concern that a section of the press had reported that there was a change in the route in the tender, the Minister made it clear no such changes had been effected.

Conversation in Tulu in Legislative Assembly

The Legislative Assembly witnessed a conversation in Tulu as Congress member Ashok Kumar Rai switched to Tulu while asking a supplementary question on the government's reply for a call attention notice tabled by him. He conversed in Tulu to draw the attention of Speaker U.T. Khader, who too hails from the Tulu-speaking coastal belt. The Speaker too responded in Tulu. Both the member as well as the Speaker later switched back to Kannada as Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who was replying, does not speak Tulu.

Teary farewell to associate

Recalling his association with party colleague and former Deputy Chairman the late S.L. Dharme Gowda, outgoing JD(S) member B.M. Farooq broke down during his farewell speech in the Legislative Council. Narrating the incident in the Council when Congress members dragged the late Gowda from the chairman's chair while he was officiating in 2020, after which he committed suicide, Mr. Farooq said: "He was very close to me. He spoke little and was a good man." He took some time to regain composure.

CM's reply to Budget discussion brims over with attack on BJP and Centre

Siddaramaiah accuses the saffron party of othering and disliking 'those don wear skull cap, sport beard, and wear burkha'

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP members protesting in the Well while Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is speaking in the Legislative Assembly in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Arguing that the Opposition BJP was "jealous" over the implementation of five guarantees and also launching development works by the Congress government, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday accused the BJP of othering and disliking "those don wear skull cap, sport beard, and wear burkha."

"On the one hand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi says 'Sab Ka Saath, Sab Ka Vikaas', whereas you don't like people who don skull cap, sport beard, and wear burkha. You seem to worship lies," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Fight against RSS, BJP

Responding on the Budget discussion in the Legislative Council amidst vociferous protests by BJP members, who were seeking the government's response on the alleged slogan shouting incident at the Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday, Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "You, in the name of caste and religion, are dividing the country. How much ever you shout, I am not scared of you. Our fight is against the BJP and the RSS."

As BJP members were raising slogans, he said: "The BJP is against the Constitution, the poor and social justice. Just by wearing saffron shawl, you do not become patriots. Hindutva leaders like M.S. Golwalkar, V.D. Savarkar, and K.B. Hedgewar did not come out and participate in the Quit India movement. Instead they were associated with the British." Terming the BJP protest as a "drama", Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "How much ever drama you enact, people are watching you. Have you ever come to power with the blessings of people? You have always made a backdoor entry." Finally, when the protest did not subside, he ended his speech.

In the Assembly, amid protests, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the State government has set aside ₹52,009 crore in the State Budget for 2024-25 for implementation of five guarantees and another ₹4,000 crore, totalling ₹56,000 crore, would be required for delivery of schemes during the next fiscal. He said GDP of the State was ₹25,63,247 crore and it is expected to reach ₹28,09,063 crore in 2024-25. He continued his tirade against the Centre and said the Narendra Modi-led government had betrayed the people of the State by denying due share in taxes and denying funds for flood relief and funds for Upper Bhadra project.

He mentioned Mr. Modi's name over two dozen times during a 100-minute reply, targeting the Centre. He also referred to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Rajya Sabha member elected from Karnataka, for denying adequate funds under the 15th Finance Commission.

The House passed two Appropriation Bills.

'Jai Sri Ram vs. Jai Sita Ram'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

During the protest in the well of the Legislative Assembly, BJP members chanted "Jai Sri Ram", "Bharat Ma Ki Jai" and "Jai Modi", and anti-Congress slogans when the Chief Minister began his reply. They picked up paper and threw them in the air in front of the Speaker.

Countering the BJP members, Congress members raised "Jai Sita Ram" and "Jai Siddaramaiah" slogans. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah too replied to "Jai Sri Ram" slogans with "Jai Jai Sita Ram" while stating that he too had built temples in his village dedicated to Rama. Amidst slogans and counter-slogans, the BJP members staged a walkout, for submission of a petition to the Governor seeking dismissal of the government for failure to maintain law and order.

Endowments Bill passed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Legislative Assembly passed the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, 2024, for the second time on Thursday. Later, it was passed in the Council, amidst protest by BJP members. It had been rejected by the combined Opposition in the Legislative Council last Friday. Now, the Bill will be send to the Governor for his assent.

The Bill mandates that the government will collect 10% of the income of temples that have revenue of more than ₹1 crore.

The Opposition BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) members opposed the Bill in the Council and alleged that it was "anti-Hindu" and aimed at diverting funds from the Hindu temples. Countering this, Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy had said that money so taken would be in the Common Pool Fund to fund poor 'C' grade temples and provide several facilities for temple priests and their families.

44 Cong. leaders appointed heads of boards

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Thursday issued an order for appointment of 44 leaders and party workers of the Congress as chairpersons of boards and corporations. The term of the chairpersons is fixed at two years, the order said. Earlier, the government has appointed 34 legislators as heads for various boards and corporations.

Assembly passes Bill that provides welfare schemes for motor transport workers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Legislative Assembly on Thursday passed the Karnataka Motor Transport and Other Allied Workers' Social Security and Welfare Bill, 2024, for providing social security and benefits to motor vehicle drivers, conductors, cleaners, supervisors, station staff, line checking staff, booking clerks, cash clerks, depot clerks, timekeepers, watchman/attenders, and other unorganised workers engaged in motor transport.

The Bill aims at providing welfare measures to those working in garages, tyre retreading and resoling units, puncture shops, wheel balancing and alignment units, water washing units. The facilities provided would be similar to those provided for construction workers now.

It seeks re-appropriation of funds from the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1957, to finance social security and other welfare measures; and constitute a board for disbursement of the funds under schemes. The Bill also encompasses persons working in automobile body building units, tinkering electrical and AC units.

The government will constitute the Karnataka State Motor Transport and Other Allied Workers Social Security and Welfare Board for implementing welfare measures. The Minister for Labour will be chairperson of the Board while the Additional Chief Secretary of the department will be the vice-chairperson.

How fund accrues

The fund will be created through levy of cess, surcharge and taxation, sums received through CSR and grants from the State government. Every motor transport and other allied workers should register his or her name soon after the Act came into force, the Bill said.

Besides accident benefit to motor transport and other allied workers, the fund would be used for providing educational assistance to the children of deceased workers, maternity benefit, reimbursement/payment of registration fee for Karnataka government schemes such as Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka Pension Scheme and benefits during death, disability and medical reimbursement, the Bill said.

The Assembly passed the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2024, for levying 5% additional cess on transport vehicles for the purpose of the Karnataka Motor Transport and Other Allied Workers Social Security and Welfare Fund.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy tabled the Bill and said it was introduced to give effect to the amendment made by the Centre in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, and levy life time tax on motor cars, jeeps, omni buses, and private service vehicles which runs on electricity having cost of the vehicle which exceeds ₹25 lakh.

BJP urges Governor to recommend dismissal of Congress govt.

BJP legislators heading to Raj Bhavan after boycotting the Assembly session in Bengaluru on Thursday.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accusing the Congress government in Karnataka of failure to comply with the law and order norms as well as upholding Constitutional values, the Opposition BJP petitioned Governor Thawaarchand Gehlot to recommend dismissal of the government to the Centre.

A delegation of BJP legislators, led by Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok, took the fight against the Congress government, with respect to the alleged raising of 'Pakistan zindabad' slogans in the Vidhana Soudha, beyond the Legislature by lobbing the ball in the court of the Governor. They marched to the Raj Bhavan to petition the Governor after boycotting the legislature session to protest against delay in arresting those who allegedly raised slogans while celebrating the victory of Congress leader Nassir Hussain in the Rajya Sabha polls.

In the petition, the BJP legislators described the alleged incident as an "anti-national act."

Assembly, Council adjourned *sine die*

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Legislative Assembly and Council were adjourned *sine die* on Thursday. The session was held for 13 days.

It began with Governor Thawaarchand Gehlot's address to a joint session of both Houses of the State legislature, and also saw presentation of the State Budget by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The highlight was that 26 Bills were adopted, besides adopting two resolutions against the Centre with respect to devolution of Central funds and protest of farmers.

Sloganeering case: Police question seven persons

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Vidhana Soudha police questioned seven persons, including a chilli merchant from Haveri who was present during the victory celebrations by supporters of Naseer Hussain after he won the Rajya Sabha polls, in the corridors of the Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday, in the "pro-Pakistan slogan" case.

The suspect Mohammed Shafi, from Haveri, and other supporters of Mr. Hussain were summoned by the police, who questioned them in detail and recorded their statements along with voice samples for further investigation.

According to sources, the suspect told the police that they shouted "Naseer Sab zindabad" and said being Indian citizens there was no need to raise pro-Pakistan slogans.

Meanwhile, the police are awaiting the FSL report on the video clip sent for analysis. The police said they had requested the officials to hand over the report on priority after analysing whether the word "Pakistan" was mentioned in the clip.

BJP opposes transfer of Veterinary Department's land to Minorities Dept.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government's recent notification on transferring two acres of land belonging to the Veterinary Department in the heart of Bengaluru city on Mysore Road in Chamarajpet constituency to the Minority Welfare Department has triggered a controversy with the Opposition BJP describing this as "appeasement of minorities" and demanding its withdrawal.

The State government had on February 26 issued a notification stating that two acres of land on which a veterinary hospital has been located will be transferred to the Minorities Welfare Department for building Maulana Azad/ Morarji Desai Residential School.

The notification says that the veterinary hospital would be shifted to another location as there is not much cattle population in the heart of the city where the hospital is located. However, there is a great demand for students' hostels and residential schools for minorities as a sizeable number reside there, said the notification.

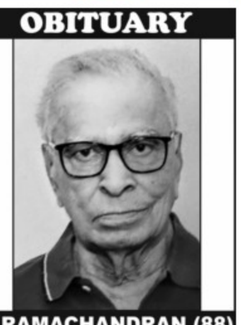
Taking exception to this, Leader of the Opposition in Assembly R. Ashok alleged that the government was gifting land valued over ₹500 crore to the minorities with an eye on their votes.

Instead of giving away the land of Veterinary Department, the government could think of choosing land of the Wakf Department which has seen properties worth crores of rupees being encroached and illegally occupied, he said. He urged the government to immediately withdraw the notification and restore *status quo*.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY



S.RAMACHANDRAN (88)
EX- Hindustan Teleprinters Limited (HTL)
S/O late Subramanian
Passed away on 29 th February 2024 at home peacefully. Ramachandran worked for several years at HTL Chennai. He is survived by his wife Mrs Namagiri , Sons, daughters in law, Grand daughter.
Contact 97910 66421
for more information

Arkavathi river which originates from Nandi Hills is a tributary of Cauvery and has dried up due to failed monsoon as seen in Ramanagara. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

According to KSPCB report there has been a substantial increase in coliform bacteria levels with total coliform value going up from 9,200 MP/100 ml in 2018 to 1,60,000 MPN/100 ml in 2023 BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

A river runs Dry

Efforts to revive the river are already under way, and have been so for a while

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru's acute water crisis continues with the city already feeling the heat, even though peak summer is still a few weeks away. The Arkavathi Reservoir, a major tributary of the Cauvery River, which originates from Nandi Hills, once a major source of drinking and irrigation water is almost dry. Even the faint trickle that remains is sludgy and highly polluted the effects of uncontrolled development, encroachments, too many borewells and eucalyptus cultivation, all of which has negatively impacted the river.

According to a recent water quality report, released by the KSPCB, there has been a substantial increase in coliform bacteria levels with total coliform value going from 9,200 MP/100 ml in 2018 to 1,60,000 MPN/100 ml in 2023. While efforts to revive the river are already underway, and have been so for a while, it clearly isn't ready to augment existing water resources in Bengaluru just yet.

Bengaluru climbs 4 notches in luxury home

A representational photo of a luxury home.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru ranks 59 in the top 100 luxury residential markets in the world, according to Knight Frank Wealth Report 2024, which was released on February 28.

Bengaluru climbed four positions on the Prime International Residential Index (PIRI 100) from 63rd rank in 2022 owing to a 2.2% year-on-year increase in the price value of the luxury residential market.

Mumbai stood at 8th position, up from 37th in 2022.

"While Mumbai logged into the top 10 league among PIRI 100 cities, Delhi and Bengaluru also demonstrated positive momentum by improving their ranks,'' said Shishir Baijal, Chairman & Managing Director, Knight Frank India.

Bengaluru firm Kushal's raises ₹284 crore from Mumbai-based VC firm

Founded in 2006 by the Gulechha family, Kushal's runs its operations from Basavanagudi in Bengaluru.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru-based Kushal's, a fashion and silver jewellery brand, raised ₹284 crore from Mumbai-based venture firm Lighthouse Funds in a Series B round.

This round included a secondary buy-out providing part exit to its first institutional investor India SME Investments, which invested in 2019.

The current round of growth capital would be utilised to build the brand and scale up its retail presence.

Anshul Jain, Managing Director at Lighthouse, said, "Kushal's is at the forefront of organising the large, fragmented fashion jewellery market in India with its premium product range catering to the needs of aspirational consumers."

Founded in 2006 by the Gulechha family, Kushal's runs its operations from Basavanagudi in Bengaluru, offering a diverse range of fashion jewellery for weddings, festivals, special occasions, and everyday wear.

The company retails its products through over 75 stores in over 25 cities in India and online channels.

Karnataka re-launches free sanitary pad scheme for school, college girls

The project was started by the Siddaramaiah-led State government

A uterus designed using sanitary pads displayed at the 62nd All India Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Relaunching an important initiative meant for girl students, Karnataka Government on Wednesday started Shuchi scheme for menstrual hygiene by supplying sanitary napkins to around 19 lakh adolescent girls at the school and college levels that had been stalled for four years.

The Karnataka Health Department will provide free sanitary napkins to around 19 lakh girls (aged 10 to 18 years) in government and aided schools and colleges across the state. The Health Department will directly deliver sanitary napkins to the schools which will be distributed to the girl. Each kit would have 10 sanitary napkins in a pack. Napkins required for one year will be given to the girl students. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said this scheme is important for the hygiene and health of girl students. The project was started by the Siddaramaiah-led State government in the previous term, but had been stopped by the BJP government, the minister said.

The Minister also emphasised that menstruation is a natural process and that there is no need for girls to be hesitant about this. There are some superstitions attached to it and it is important to get rid of them and create awareness about cleanliness, he said.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 1, 1974

Karnataka Express Dieselised

Bangalore, Feb. 28: The Bangalore-Miraj Karnataka Express dieselised from to-day, left Bangalore City railway station this evening, with an extra load of passengers in four additional coaches. The Industries Minister, Mr. S.M. Krishna gave the green signal.

As a result of dieselisation, the running time between Bangalore and Miraj is reduced from about 19 hours to 17 hours. The accommodation is increased by 18 first class berths and 64 third class berths. There will also be 64 additional third class seats between Bangalore and Hubli.

Poultry Farmers Hit by Price Rise

Bangalore: A large number of small poultry farms in and around Bangalore have become victims of the soaring prices of ingredients of poultry feed.

The price hike is so steep that many farms are forced to fold up bringing down the number of birds by about 1.5 lakh affecting the daily production of eggs.

The assessment a few months ago was that the total number of birds in both big and small farms in and around Bangalore was about four lakhs. Many farms which concentrated on production of eggs are switching over to the production of broilers which are fetching a good price and providing a comfortable margin to make for the higher prices to be paid for poultry feed ingredients.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

NUGGETS OF HISTORY

Minister's statement draws ire

B. Basavalingappa, a Minister in the Devaraj Urs-led Cabinet, at a seminar in Mysuru on November 19, 1973, described Kannada literature as 'boosa' (rice husk, a cattle feed). He appealed to Dalit youths to study English for their emancipation, instead. His comment attracted strong criticism and led to a series of protests across the State.

A writers' forum is born

The protests over Basavalingappa's statement brought Shudra and Dalit writers together. They formed a forum – Karnataka Barahagarara Mattu Kalavidara Okkuta – an alliance of writers and artists from Karnataka. They organised a conference in 1974, and noted poet Kuvempu seconded Basavalingappa's statement.

How DSS took shape in Bhadravati

Dalit Sangharsha Samiti took shape in Bhadravati under the leadership of Prof. B. Krishnappa, who was then teaching at Bhadra College in Bhadravati. N. Giriyappa, an employee of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited, was the president, and Krishnappa was the secretary. The organisation was registered on January 1974.

Land struggles and the impact

DSS expanded its activities to include ensuring land for the depressed classes. Between 1975 and 1977, the organization took the lead in protesting against the injustice done to the Dalits by landlords. Many families belonging to lower castes got land to cultivate. These protests forced the govt. to enact a law prohibiting the transfer of certain lands (PTCL Act, 1978).

Opposition to nude worship

The DSS decided to stop nude worship (bettale seve) by devotees of Renukamba at Chandragutti in Soraba taluk of Shivamogga in March, 1986, by convincing the devotees. However, they faced the wrath of the people, who were in support of the custom.
Several DSS activists were beaten, and policemen were tortured.

As DSS turns 50, its legacy of awakening Dalit consciousness still resonates in Karnataka

Dalit Sangharsha Samiti, which went on to play a significant role in shaping Karnataka's political and cultural sensibilities, took shape in 1974

Sathish G. T.
SHIVAMOGGA

Back in the day, the management of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL) in Bhadravathi in Shivamogga district offered coffee to its employees during work-shift breaks. However, for the workers belonging to the Scheduled Castes, a separate container was placed. They were not allowed to touch the container. Instead, they had to wait for someone from the 'upper' caste to pour coffee into their individual cups.

For years, this discrimination continued in the factory. A few employees raised their voices against the untouchability practices on the factory campus. Professor B. Krishnappa, who was teaching at Bhadra College in the town, was the guiding force behind the protesting employees. It was under his leadership, Dalita Sangharsha Samiti (DSS) -- that went on to play a significant role in shaping Karnataka's political and cultural sensibilities -- took shape in 1974 with its office in the Old Town of Bhadravathi.

Savita Ambedkar, wife of B.R. Ambedkar addressed the first convention of the Dalit Students Federation in Kolar. B. Krishnappa, founder of DSS, Ramdas Athavale, and writer Devanur Mahadeva participated. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

B. Krishnappa (in the left corner with spectacles) and other leaders of Dalit Sangharsha Samiti in Chitradurga in the 1990s. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The ground was fertile

By then, Karnataka had witnessed many events that forced the oppressed castes to come together and oppose atrocities. The anti-caste movement was gaining ground, and the Samajvadi Yuva Sabha was also active in the early 1970s. B. Basavalingappa, a senior minister in the Devaraj Urs-led cabinet, attracted criticism from the 'upper' castes for his comment on Kannada literature. In a seminar in Mysuru in November, 1973, the minister described Kannada literature as *boosa* (rice husk, a cattle feed). There were a series of protests across the State against his statement, and in several places the protests turned violent. Finally, Basavalingappa was forced to resign as minister.

The issue gave enough impetus to writers and artists from deprived sections to join hands. They convened a conference in Mysuru and invited noted poet and Jnanapeeth awardee Kuvempu to inaugurate it.

Meanwhile, in Bhadravati, Krishnappa had begun organizing people from oppressed sections. He wrote pamphlets condemning injustices done to employees of VISL in Bhadravathi. He registered Dalit Sangharsha Samiti in January, 1974. N. Giriyappa, who was an employee of VISL, was the president, while Krishnappa, became secretary.

Creating awareness

The DSS conducted workshops for the students. Experts took classes on the rights of the oppressed castes and introduced students to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's speeches and writings in these workshops. Through many such workshops, hundreds of youths, particularly college students, joined the DSS.

"Prof. Krishnappa regularly met students in hostels and spoke to them about practices of untouchability and the ways to achieve emancipation. That motivated many students to join him," recalled M. Gurumurthy, State convener of Karnataka DSS. He joined the DSS in 1981 as a student in Shivamogga, and took part in many movements that organization led. Now, he leads the 50-year-old DSS.

Protests over land issues

The youth who came into contact with the organisation in their student days motivated like-minded people to join the forum in their villages. A few, including Chandraprasad Tyagi, who was an employee at VISL, gave up jobs to lead the organization in their native places. Hence, within a span of a few years, the DSS grew as a strong pressure group in the State.In due course, the DSS drafted a constitution and adopted it. It defined the word Dalit as a group of people who are untouchables and discriminated against on the basis of caste. Its primary objective was the liberation of Dalits from cultural, sociological, and economic inequalities through the path of non-violence.

Besides protesting against the atrocities against Dalits and women, the DSS motivated its workers to engage in land-related struggles. The DSS led a series of protests for the Dalits of Sidlipura in Bhadravathi taluk and Bidare Kaval in Hassan and many other places. An industrialist had acquired land that belonged to Dalits in Sidlipura. The Samiti staged protests in favour of the landless for several months and succeeded in the protest.

This movement culminated in the State government passing a law to prohibit the transfer of certain lands -- Karnataka Scheduled Castes and. Scheduled Tribes (Prohibition of Transfer of Certain Lands) Act, 1978.

Protests in many hues

"In many cases, either through ignorance or coming under pressure, the Dalits lost land granted to them for a paltry sum. This law ensures they retain their land. This was the historic agitation that prompted the government to bring in the law. Similarly, Krishnappa was the first to raise a voice for the grant of land to bagair hukum cultivators," said Mr. Gurumurthy. He also recalled how he and his associates fought with members of the Hindutva organisations, condemning the assault on Dr. Polanki Ramamurthy, a professor of English, during his lecture in a college in Shivamogga in the early 1980s. Ramamurthy faced criticism from Hindutva factions after he wrote the book *Seethayana*. The DSS did not restrict itself to questioning atrocities against Scheduled Caste alone, but stood against various other forms of oppression. For instance, when a person who belonged to the Kumbara, potter community, a backward class, was murdered, and his daughter was raped in Kolar taluk in 1979, the DSS took out a historic march from Kolar to Bengaluru, seeking justice for the victims. The family was tortured as they refused to give their land to a landlord. Hundreds of workers from different parts of the state took part in the march and suffered injuries in police lathi-charge.

Another major protest that the DSS led was in March 1986, when the organization decided to convince devotees of Renukamba at Chandragutti in Soraba taluk, not to offer bettale seve (Nude worship). Under the leadership of Prof.Krishnappa around 300 activists from different parts of the state had gathered on the bank of the Varada River to convince the devotees to wear clothes to offer their prayers. Their gesture did not go well with the people, who were in support of the custom. They targeted DSS workers and the police, who were also in support of the activists. The angry mob tortured the police. The incidents forced the State Government to hold a judicial probe by Chikkamagaluru district judge G. Channaveerappa. The risk the activists took did not go to waste. The tradition of naked worship was stopped.

Large crowd during 'apolitical' convention named 'Dalits Cultural Resistance' on the occasion of B.R. Ambedkar's 'Mahaparinirvan Diwas' at the National College Grounds. FILE PHOTO

Fights and their outcomes

The organisation fought against atrocities against Dalits reported across the state. "The activists hit the streets opposing the bonded labour system, resulting in violence against them in many instances. But these efforts resulted in the passing of the law on the prevention of atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in 1989. The DSS and its activities have brought about significant changes in the state," said Prof. B.L. Raju, who teaches English at Ripponpet in Shivamogga district.

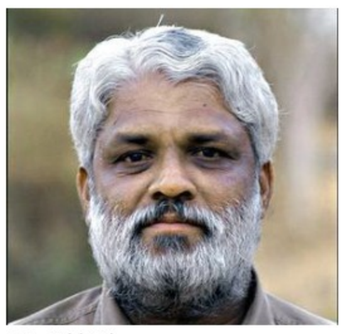
Devanura Mahadev, Siddalingaiah, N. Venkatesh, Kotaganahalli Ramaiah, M. Venkataswamy, Mavalli Shankar, Sridhar Kaliveer, Lakshminarayana Nagavara, Guruprasad Keragodu, Indudhar Honnapura, Chandra Prasad Tyagi, M. Jayanna and many others have led the movement, shouldering responsibilities at different stages.

The leaders had differences over joining politics and facing the elections, and other issues. Gradually, many senior leaders left the organization to form their own factions. Hence, at present, there are many forums that are splinter groups of the original DSS.

Gurumurthy said that their unit is planning to hold many events to mark the 50th year of the organization.

Devanur Mahadeva

Siddalingaiah



K.B. Siddaiah

The DSS and Kannada literature

The DSS and Dalit movements have contributed immensely to Kannada literature. Writers including Dr. Siddalingaiah, a noted poet, and Devanura Mahadeva, novelist and storyteller, have been involved in the activities since the early 1970s. They were instrumental in organising the conference of Dalit Writers and Artists in 1976. Along with Krishnappa and others, they played a role in holding the first convention of Dalit students in Kolar in 1983.

Siddalingaiah's poems reached a larger audience through the activists of the DSS. His poems were instant hits, becoming anthems of sorts of the movement. The activists of DSS would begin their programmes singing Siddalingaiah's poems.

Noted critic D.R. Nagaraj, in his *The Flaming Feet*, says, "There are two different modes of Dalit writing and they can be called the schools of 'social rage' and 'spiritual quest'." He puts the writers – Siddalingaiah, Mullur Nagaraj, Mogalli Ganesh, Aravind Malagatti, Ma.Na. Javaraiah, Munivenkatappa, Gangaram Chandala, Chinnaswamy and Indudhara Honnapura -- in the school of "social rage", which concentrates "basically on the experiences of anger, agony, and revolutionary hope."

Dr. Nagaraj includes Devanura Mahadeva, K.B. Siddaiah and Govindaiah in the school of "spiritual quest" because their works tried to "understand the world of poverty and untouchability in terms of metaphysical dismay over the nature of human relationships." These writers have not only enriched Kannada literature through their creative works, but also worked towards bringing Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's writings into Kannada.

From Page One

BBMP Budget:Focus on shoring up revenue

The Budget has proposed to set up 50 new Indira Canteens, including mobile canteens, for which ₹70 crore has been allocated. venues. ₹100 crore has been allocated to invigorate health services.

There is a proposal to introduce a pension scheme for pourakarmikas (civic workers) from the next fiscal, and ₹137.50 crore has been allocated for the same. BBMP proposes to set up night shelters for the protection of transgenders.

Apart from setting a higher target for property tax, the Budget proposes to introduce a new advertisement policy, which is expected to generate ₹500 crore. The civic body hopes to generate another ₹1,000 crore by selling Premium FAR across Bengaluru.

OBC panel submits caste census report

As per the data "leaked" some years ago, the numbers of these two communities are learnt to be less than what they claim it to be.

Industries Minister M.B. Patil, who belongs to the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community and had opposed the survey, said: "We are not aware of the contents of the report. The government will decide whether to accept it or not after going through it."

Acknowledging that the community was anxious about the report, he told presspersons: "A large number of people have written the name of the sub-sects, where as we are demanding that it should be Veerashaiva-Lingayat. Similar confusion and anxiety is prevailing in the Vokkaliga community. The government will take all these aspects into consideration."

Meanwhile, a member of the Kantharaj Commission said that the government should clarify what would happen to the Kanthraj Commission report now. "Has the government taken any decision on it? Our report was ready but not accepted." Meanwhile, former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai asked Mr. Siddaramaiah to clarify whether the caste census report was that of Mr. Hegde or Mr. Kantharaj.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru on Thursday, the BJP leader said the terms of reference of the Kantharaj commission did not include the caste census report.

SC dismisses Vedanta appeal to reopen copper plant

Health and welfare of residents of the area is matter of utmost concern, the Chief Justice observed

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed an appeal by Vedanta Sterlite to reopen its Thoothukudi copper plant closed six years ago on grounds of pollution, endorsing the public's right to health over sheer industry gains.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud upheld a Madras High Court decision of August 2020.

A SC Bench upheld a Madras High Court decision, which had confirmed the decision of the Tamil Nadu government and the State Pollution Control Board to shut the plant down in 2018. FILE PHOTO

Permanent closure

The Madras High Court had confirmed the decisions of the Tamil Nadu government and the State Pollution Control Board to permanently shut the plant down in 2018.

The court said the closure of an industry was never a first choice. But the long and repeated breaches coupled with serious violations by Vedanta had left the High Court and the statutory authorities no other option but to bring the curtain down on the Thoothukudi plant. Anything else would have been sheer obliviousness of their plain duty to the public, the court noted.

"We are conscious of the fact that the unit has contributed to the productive assets of the nation and providing employment and revenue in the area," the Chief Justice said.

But equally relevant, Chief Justice Chandrachud noted, were the principles of sustainable development, public trust, and finally, that a polluter should pay.

"The health and welfare of the residents of the area is a matter of utmost concern. In the ultimate analysis, the State government is responsible for preserving and protecting their concerns," Chief Justice Chandrachud observed in the order.

Kannada actor and former civil servant Shivaram no more

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bureaucrat-turned-actor K. Shivaram passed away at the age of 70 in Bengaluru on Thursday, February 29. Shivaram was undergoing treatment for multiple health issues at a private hospital for many days. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

Shivaram had cleared the UPSC exam in Kannada in 1986, becoming the first person in India to achieve the feat.

Born to theatre coach S. Kempaiah and Chikkaboramma in a poor Dalit family, Shivaram developed an interest in acting in his formative years.

In 1993, he made his big-screen debut with *Baa Nalle Madhuchandrake*, directed by Nagathihalli Chandrashekar, who adapted the film from his novel by the same name.

Before his political stint, Shivaram served as the Bangalore Regional Commissioner till his retirement in 2013.

Video of woman being disrobed over land dispute comes to light

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Those who had encroachers upon a piece of land are said to have partially disrobed a woman and assaulted her son for asking them to move out of the land in Ainapur village near Athani in Belagavi district.

The incident came to light after pictures and videos of the woman and her son were shared on some social media handles on Wednesday.

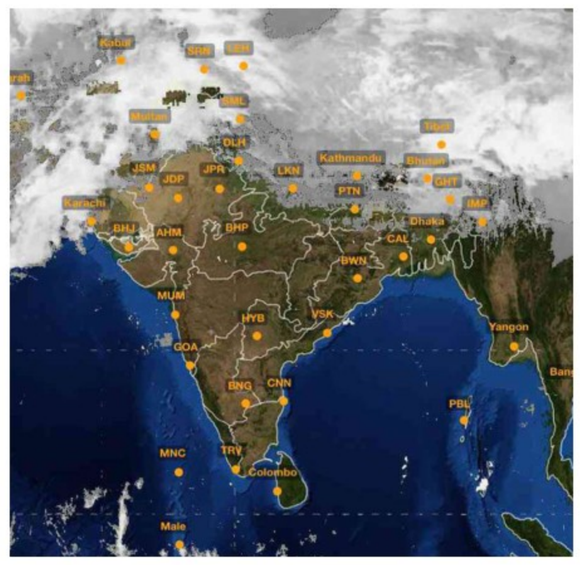
The video, however, is over a year old, the police said.

"It was shot by a family member of the woman when the offence occurred last year," a police officer said. It was shared by some villagers on Wednesday.

Kagwad Police have registered a case under IPC 354 on the charge of outraging the modesty of a woman and other relevant provisions. Additional Superintendent of Police S.N. Shruti and other officers visited the spot.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds/hailstorm likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi, west Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra and Vidarbha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.5	15.8	Kozhikode	—	36.3	27.2
Ahmedabad	—	36.8	20.5	Kurnool	—	38.2	22.2
Aizawl	—	27.5	12.4	Lucknow	—	27.8	12.0
Allahabad	—	28.6	12.4	Madurai	—	35.8	22.5
Bengaluru	—	33.5	18.1	Mangaluru	—	34.0	20.2
Bhopal	—	31.5	15.4	Mumbai	—	37.2	23.4
Bhubaneswar	—	34.7	21.5	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	26.6	12.0	New Delhi	—	27.6	11.4
Chennai	—	33.1	24.1	Patna	—	27.3	16.2
Coimbatore	—	34.6	21.6	Port Blair	—	30.9	25.2
Dehradun	—	27.7	9.2	Puducherry	—	33.2	23.0
Gangtok	—	13.2	9.1	Pune	—	36.0	20.9
Goa	—	35.4	24.5	Raipur	—	33.8	20.4
Guwahati	—	29.6	12.8	Ranchi	—	27.0	15.9
Hubballi	—	37.0	21.0	Shillong	—	17.7	7.5
Hyderabad	—	33.5	20.8	Shimla	—	20.0	7.4
Imphal	—	26.1	9.5	Srinagar	—	10.5	2.1
Jaipur	—	29.1	13.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.6	24.2
Kochi	—	32.6	26.4	Tiruchi	—	35.1	23.4
Kohima	—	18.6	7.5	Vijayawada	—	35.4	22.8
Kolkata	—	30.4	19.6	Visakhapatnam	—	32.0	25.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.12	.42	.8	207	130	
Bengaluru	.9	.39	.49	67	114	
Chennai	—	.12	.83	65	65	
Delhi	.12	.52	.32	225	192	
Hyderabad	.4	.36	.51	60	129	
Kolkata	.28	.90	.26	179	138	
Lucknow	.3	.36	.48	80	121	
Mumbai	—	.98	.39	293	205	
Pune	103	137	115	189	146	
Visakhapatnam	.13	.41	.19	103	118	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 360 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 28

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Government of Karnataka
Shivamogga Forest Division, Shivamogga
No.: B1/BGT/Tender/CR-25/2023-24 Date: 26.02.2024
e-Tender Notice (Through e-Procurement Portal)

Short-Term e-Tenders Call-2 are invited through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 from interested Forest contractors registered in Forest Division as Forest Contractors for the year 2023-24 and having experience of advance works for plantation in the Forest Department and having experience of having carried out advance works for plantation and similar works as put to tender and having their own Sapling Nursery in the zone where works have to be carried out, for carrying out works of "Formation of palntations by growing saplings, Maintenance of plantations and maintenance of saplings"in forest areas coming in the limits of various zones of Shiva mogga forest Division under Head of Account 2406-04-103-1-04-NPV-Forest Land-140-Minor Works (CAMPA) for the year 2024-25. Last date for submitting tenders for the said worksis fixed on 05.03.2024 up to 4.00 PM. For further information this office can be contacted during office hours and details of the Tender can be obtained through the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shivamogga Division, Shivamogga
DIPR/smg/No.231/02/ksmca/23-24/1413

Office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Special division, Shimoga
Ph: 08182-222942, E-Mail : spdivision@gmail.com
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER SYSTEM) (Through e-procurement)
IFT NO: 37/ 2023-24 Date : 27-02-2024

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as per K.T.P.P act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W-3 (two cover system) Contractors has registered in PWD Department Class-3 & above can apply under head of account 3054-03-102-0-01-200-SH Bridge & "3054-04-337-1-10-200 MDR Road in **Shimoga & Bhadravathi tq 02 works. Maximum Amount put to tender is. Rs.74.99 Lakhs & Minimum Amount put to tender is. Rs. 69.95 Lakhs and Maximum EMD amount is Rs. 1.50 lakhs & Minimum EMD amount is Rs. 1.40 lakhs. Time allowed for completion of work is 03 Months including Monsoon.** The tenderers may submit tenders through E-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz., http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in). The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Section -2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal from **27-02-2024 to 05-03-2024 Last date for Receipt of Tender is on 05-03-2024 at 17.00 PM. The Technical bid will be opned on 06-03-2024 at 5.30 PM onwards and Financial bid will be opened after 07-03-2024 Onwards.** If there any changes in publication, it will be puplishing through E-Procurement only. For more information may be obtained from the office during working hours. Information published in Website is final.

DIPR/SMG/No.242-02 zenkar/2023-24
Sd/-Executive Engineer, PWD Special Division, Shimoga.

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com
No. BMICAPA/CLU-01/76/2023-24/1853 Date: 29.02.2024
PUBLIC NOTICE
[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

Sri. Mahesh Kumar S/o Late Muniraju. has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Residential"** Zone which land is reserved for Agriculture purpose in approved Master plan under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961, pertaining to Sy. No:62/10 extent of 00Acre-35.08Guntas of Manganahalli Village, Yashawanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following:

1. If this land is developed and layout formed, sites will be available at reasonable rates to middle income Group and Economically weaker section.
2. At the time of carving and designing the Layout, there will be job oppurtunities to labours.
3. If this land is developed, then the surrounding area will also get developed.
4. If the planned development takes place, good road, Civic amenity sites and parks etc. will be available for general public.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objection received there after will not be considered.

DIPR/CP/JA/3960/2023-24
Sd/- Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bangalore.

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayat, Chitradurga
Office of the District Health and Family Welfare, Chitradurga.
ದೂ: ಸಂ: 08194–235464 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: dhochitradurga@gmail.com
No.: Transport/37/2023-24 Date: 28.02.2024
Re Tender Notice (2nd Call)
(Only through e-Procurement)

Related to the subject, 33 posts of Drivers are vacant in various Health Institutions in Chitradurga Districtfor remaining part the year 2023-24 and for the year 2024-25. For availing the services of the most essential vehicle drivers,Competitive Tender is invited in two cover system through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act-1999 and as per the following Amendments Orders, from Outsource Firms who are registered with Labour Department. Approx. Amount put to Tender: Rs.70.00 lakhs.
(1) Tender No:- DHFWS/2023-24/SE0411, Call-2 (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹೆಸರು:– Procurement of 33 Ambulance & other vehicle Driver's services for various Health Institutions working under Dist. Health & F.W. officer, chitradurga in chitradurga District
(3) E.M.D. Amount: Rs. 1,70,000/-
http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Cost of Tender Form and E.M.D. Amount should be paid in e-procurement portal.
(1) Commencement date for downloading blank Tender Forms in e-procurement portal: 28.02.2024 (2) Last date for uploading filled Tender Forms in e-procurement portal: 14.03.2024 up to 17.00 Hrs. (3) Date and time of opening Technical Bid of the filled Tenders: 15.03.2024 after 5.01 PM. (4) Dateand time of opening Financial Bid of the filled Tenders: 16.03.2024 after 11.00 Hrs. Further information regarding the Tender can be obtained from the above mentioned Office and website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/639/2023-24
Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Chitradurga.

ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಅಭಿಯಾನ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು.ಕ.ಸಂಘ, ಕೋಲಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
ಕೆ.ಎನ್.ಟಿ.ಬಿ ಸ್ಯಾನಿಟೋರಿಯಂ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ, ಬಂಗಾರಪೇಟೆ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕೋಲಾರ– 563102
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಡಿಹೆಚ್ಎಸ್/ಎನ್ಹೆಚ್ಎಂ/ಕೋ/ಹೊ.ಗು/02/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.02.2024
E-PROCUREMENT TENDAR NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited for providing Man Power on Contract Basis (Outsource) for the District Health Society Kolar for the financial year 2024-25 pertaining to National Health Mission and its programs. For More Information Visit:**www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kolar.nic.in/https://kolarhfwd.karnataka.gov.in** or DHO Office Kolar in Working Hours only

Sd/-District Health & Family Welfare Officer Kolar district,Kolar
DIPR/KOLAR/R.O.NO:381/KSMCA/2023-24

DISTRICT URBAN DEVELOPMENT CELL,
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, MYSURU DISTRICT, MYSURU.
Ph: 0821-2424070, E. mail : dudc_mys@yahoo.co.in
ಸಂ: ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ:ಸಿಆರ್:1/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.02.2024
Tender Notification (Through e-Procurement Portal)

On Behalf of Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru District, Mysuru, As per KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 tender is invited for SUPPLY OF DRY FODDER TO FODDER BANK/GOSHALA AT VARIOUS PLACES OF MYSURU DISTRICT, For Rs. 380.70 Lkshs (Indent No-DMA/2023-24/IND1558) Eligible Suppliers may apply through e-Procurement Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date of tender submission 12-03-2024 Up to 4.00 PM Date of opening of Technical Bid 13-03-2024 4.30PM Any changes in the tender schedule will be notified through e-Procurement Portal only. For details contact District Urban Development Cell, Mysuru DC Office new building Bannuru Road Mysuru.

DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/1188/2023-24
Sd/- Project Director

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYAT, HASSAN
DISTRICT HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE OFFICE, HASSAN
Phone No.08172-246832 Fax No.08172-246575
SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

As per Tender Specification Karnataka e-Procurement 1)Tender Reference No:HDH/EST(6)EQUIPMENT/40/2023-24, DATED: 25.01.2024 2)Submission of application through e-procurement Dated: 06.03.2024 at 11:00 A.M 3)Date of Opening of Technical Bid: Dated:07.03.2024 Morning at 11:30 A.M. 4)Techicnial Bid Original Documents Verification Date & Time: 11.03.2024 Morning at 10:30 A.M District Health and Family welfare office Hassan. 5)Date of Opening of Finanncial Bid Dated: 11.03.2024 Morning at 03:00 P.M at District Health and Family welfare Office Hassan. 6)Total Tender Amount for 3 Packages: Rs.74.00 Lakhs 8)Total EMD Amount for 3 Packages Rs.1,85,000/- 8)If Any Details for contact District Health and Family welfare Office Hassan Phone No.08172-246832 For More Details https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in The Tender accepting authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender without assigning any reasons there off. The details in this regard may be obtained from the office of the District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Hassan. We publish any amendments regarding this tender only on e-procurement portal.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ಹಿಸನ/ಡಾಸನ/೫46/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಎ/52/2023–24
Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Hassan

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
Jalamandali Compound, Sir M. Vishweshwarayya Road. Dharwad 580 001
E-Mail : kwbcen@gmail.com Tele: 0836-2447090
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER CALL-2
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders for the following work are invited (two tender document system) through e-Procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from the eligible Agency / contractors who satisfy the Technical & Financial eligibility criteria. **This office Tender Notification No: 2315 Dated: 28-02-2024.**
1) Providing Water Supply Scheme to Jamakhandi, Konnur, Nippani & Bailhongal Towns under AMRUT 2.0 Including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. **(Lumpsum Tender – No Variation) INDENT NO. KUWSDB/ 2023-24/ WS/ WORK_INDENT 128/ CALL-2**
2) Providing Water Supply Scheme to Hangal and Yellapur Towns under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. **(Lumpsum Tender – No Variation) INDENT NO. KUWSDB/ 2023-24/ WS/ WORK_INDENT 120/ CALL-2**
3) Providing Water Supply System to Sindagi, Muddebihal, Basavan Bagewadi, Talikote & Kustagi Town under AMRUT 2.0 Including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. **(Lumpsum Tender – No Variation) INDENT NO. KUWSDB/ 2023-24/ WS/ WORK_INDENT 126/ CALL-2**
For further information visit e-procurement portal or the Office of the Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S & D. Board, Dharwad may be contacted.

DIPR/Dwd/859/DeshpandePublicity/2023-24
Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER, KUWS & D BOARD, DHARWAD.

KARNATAKA HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023 Telephone No.080-29557023, E-mail: **cekhsdrp@gmail.com**
No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-3/AE-8/TND/2023-24/2628 Date: 29.02.2024
Short-Term Tender Notification

Short-Term Tenders are invited from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in Two Cover Tender document system in KPPP for the works **(1)** Construction of Girls and Boys Hostel for SC/ST Students at Koppal Institute of Medical Sciences Campus in Koppal District. (Call-2). Approximate Estimate Cost: **Rs. 461.53 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 6.93 Lakhs.** Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon): **11 Months. (2)** Construction of Burns Unit Hospital in the premises of GIMS at Kalaburagi in Kalaburgi District. Approximate Estimate Cost: **Rs. 980.00 Lakhs,** EMD: **Rs. 14.70 Lakhs**, Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon): **11 Months.** (3) Construction of Burns Unit Hospital in the premises of BIMS at Belagavi in Belagavi District. Approximate Estimate Cost: **Rs. 998.00 Lakhs,** EMD: **Rs. 14.97 Lakhs**, Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon): **11 Months.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **15.03.2024 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : **16.03.2024 at 16.00 hrs.** The tender details can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform. **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: (1) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids/individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. **(2)** Henceforth, any changes in the schedule/contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru.

An extra berth

The Rajya Sabha elections have allowed dissidents to find their voice

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 30 of the 56 Rajya Sabha seats which are set to fall vacant in April, from 15 States, with the results announced on February 27. The party won two more seats than what its numbers in the State Assemblies would have allowed, by brazenly engineering cross voting by legislators from the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh and the Congress in Himachal Pradesh. One BJP MLA in Karnataka crossed over to the Congress side. With six MLAs lost to the BJP, who have since been disqualified by the Speaker of the Assembly, the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh is tottering on the edge. Abhishek Manu Singhvi of the Congress and Harsh Mahajan of the BJP got 34 votes each and Mr. Mahajan was declared winner through lots. The Rajya Sabha polls brought the disenchantment within the Congress with Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu out to the fore. Vikramaditya Singh, a rebel Minister, announced his resignation, only to retract his statement. The Congress is making efforts to save its government, but the crisis is far from over. In Uttar Pradesh, seven Samajwadi Party legislators voted for the BJP, leading to the party winning an additional seat. It is not the first time that the BJP has fished in troubled waters to gain an extra berth in the Rajya Sabha. In 2017, Congress strategist Ahmed Patel managed to win by a whisker in Gujarat; and in 2020, the rebellion against the Ashok Gehlot government in Rajasthan happened on the eve of elections to the Upper House.

The BJP now has 97 members in the Upper House, and, along with the allies, is just four short of the majority mark of 121 in the Rajya Sabha, where the current strength is 240. While successive victories in the State elections have helped the BJP improve its position, growing from 78 members in 2019 to 97 at the end of the five years, the party has never shied away from pushing the boundaries of normative politics to increase its strength. The gap between the BJP, the single largest party in the Rajya Sabha, and the Congress, which has just 29 members, is far too wide to be bridged any time soon. The other Opposition parties too have only a limited presence with the Trinamool Congress at 13, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the Aam Aadmi Party with 10 each, the Rashtriya Janata Dal with six and the Communist Party of India (M) with five. In past parliamentary sessions, the Opposition members were frequently suspended whenever they sought to question the government, making Parliament a theatre of the government's unilateralism.

A respite

Trump gets legal relief as challenges to his candidacy recede

Former United States President Donald Trump appeared to receive a measure of legal succour from the country's Supreme Court after it agreed to hear in mid-April the arguments for and against his right, as an erstwhile serving President, to immunity from federal criminal prosecution for allegedly subverting the 2020 presidential election. This means that a trial is unlikely before May and a decision on the case could be returned by the end of June, the time when final rulings for the current session of the court are expected. The court's move adds considerably more time to the calendar of prosecution cases against Mr. Trump, and has effectively spoiled the plans of Special Counsel Jack Smith, leading these cases for the Justice Department, who had urged back in December last year that the Justices immediately take up the case, without any other intermediate court action. Earlier in February, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit had ruled that Mr. Trump did not enjoy sweeping immunity from federal prosecution, a legal setback for his defence team, which was appealed. Now, the Supreme Court has ruled that the lower court's ruling against Mr. Trump will remain on hold until it decides the issue. In an alternative scenario the Justices might have declined Mr. Trump's request to pause the case, which would have given Mr. Smith the option to proceed more quickly with the prosecution in the election subversion case, improving the odds of a trial before the presidential election in November.

There is a plethora of legal cases against Mr. Trump, including four criminal indictments, all of which will be impacted by the timing of the ruling on presidential immunity. Notably, the Supreme Court Justices also appear poised to reverse a ruling by the Colorado Supreme Court that banned Mr. Trump from being on presidential ballot under a constitutional provision precluding those aiding an insurrection from holding high office in government. Other than the legal morass that looms on the horizon in light of the delaying tactics employed by the Trump defence team, the battle over prosecuting Mr. Trump has laid bare the fault lines in American politics, with voters divided on his capabilities and the potential risks he poses. Democrats and Republicans have come up short in terms of finding any credible alternatives in terms of nationally popular leaders, making the 2024 election Mr. Trump's to lose. Therein lies the true malaise at the heart of the American Dream today – the lack of a vision that could unite all Americans under a single political banner. This would require leaders who are able to take a long view of the U.S.'s position as a global power, and one that provides for all its people regardless of their identity.

E-evidence, new criminal law, its implementation

R.K. Vij

is a former Indian Police Service officer

The three newly-enacted criminal laws, the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (to replace the Indian Penal Code), the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (to replace the Code of Criminal Procedure) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (to replace the Indian Evidence Act) are to come into force on July 1, 2024. At the same time, Section 106(2) of the Bharatiya Nayay Sanhita (BNS), which prescribes 10 years imprisonment for fatal accidents if they are not immediately reported to the police, has been put on hold, as notified by the Central government.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and State governments are preparing for a smooth transition. While some changes have been made in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) in connection with investigation and police functioning, a few new offences and some changes introduced in the BNS, the contents of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 have changed little as far as the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) is concerned. The scope of secondary evidence has been slightly broadened and some changes have been made in the provisions relating to electronic evidence in the BSA.

Clarity on electronic record

There is some precision in the definitions section. An illustration to the definition of "document" (which includes electronic and digital records) says that an electronic record on emails, server logs, documents on computers, laptop or smartphone, messages, websites, locational evidence (should have used the term information in place of evidence), and voice mail messages stored on digital devices are documents.

Similarly, there is clarity in the provision dealing with primary (electronic) evidence (Section 57) in the form of Explanations. One of such four explanations says that where a video recording is simultaneously stored in electronic form and transmitted or broadcast or transferred to another, each of the stored recordings shall be primary evidence. This may help the investigating agencies in fixing culpability of a cyber-criminal even if he destroys his original electronic record to deny the allegations as it may be collected from other sources without its value getting diminished.

Section 63, which deals with admissibility of electronic records, includes terms such as 'semi-conductor memory' and 'any communication device' for better visibility. However, this does not change the impact of the provision because the definition of 'electronic form' given in the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 includes information generated, sent, received or stored in 'computer memory'. Similarly, the definition of 'computer network' in the IT Act is comprehensive and includes 'communication device'.

Some changes have been made in the provisions relating to electronic evidence in the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, which is to replace the Indian Evidence Act

It is relevant to mention that the computer (primary) memory, that is; random access memory (RAM) and cache memory, is nothing but semi-conductor memory which is essential for the quicker working of a computer. Though it is volatile in nature, this memory may reveal very important information if electronic devices are recovered and seized in 'power-on' condition.

Admissibility of electronic records

The law on the admissibility of electronic records is settled. Though there are some changes in Section 63 of the BSA (which is equivalent to 65-B of the Indian Evidence Act), the ratio of the Supreme Court judgment in *Arjun Panditrao Khotkar vs Kailash Kushanrao Gorantyal & Ors.* (2020) will still equally apply to the new provisions. In this case, the Court held that the required certificate under Section 65-B(4) – now Section 63(4) of the BSA – is sine qua non for the admissibility of electronic record. The other provisions with regard to admissibility of secondary evidence will not apply to electronic records as Section 65-B of the IE Act starts with a *non-obstante* clause (i.e., notwithstanding anything contained in this Act) and Section 65-A and Section 65-B are a complete code by themselves. The *non-obstante* clause of the Indian Evidence Act is retained in the BSA.

The Court had said that if the required certificate could not be secured from the person in possession of an electronic device, an application could always be made to a judge for the production of such a certificate from the person concerned in cases where such a person refuses to give it.

The Court held that though such a certificate should generally be submitted with all other documents at the time of filing the police report and latest before commencement of the trial, non-submission of such certificate in time is a curable defect. Since Section 65-B (and Section 63 of the BSA now) does not speak of the stage at which such a certificate must be furnished to the court, the court may in appropriate cases allow the prosecution to produce such a certificate at a later point of time without causing any prejudice to the accused in trial. The Court also held that when it is impossible to obey the law, the alleged disobedience of the law is excused. In other words, if it is impossible to produce the required certificate, the court can exempt the mandatory production of the certificate.

Section 63(4) of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam requires the certificate to be signed by two persons instead of one as required under the Indian Evidence Act – the first by the person in charge of the computer or communication device or the management of the relevant activities, and the second, by an expert. A standard format of the certificate is also prescribed in the Schedule to the BSA. The expert has to verify the certificate by stating that a particular hash value is obtained by applying a particular hash algorithm. A hash function means an algorithm mapping or translation of one sequence of bits into another, generally smaller, set known as "hash result" such that an electronic record yields the same result every time the algorithm is executed with the same electronic record as its input making it computationally infeasible to reconstruct the original electronic record from the hash result produced by the algorithm. Though no notification has been issued by the Central Government under the IT Act with regard to hash algorithms for encryption for the secure use of electronic medium, the standard format of certificate lists 'SHA1, SHA256, MD5 and Other (legally acceptable standard)' as applicable hash algorithms.

Whereas MD5 (Message Digest5) and SHA1 (Secure Hash Algorithm1) are known to have some vulnerabilities, SHA256 is considered more secure and, therefore, be used by the agencies to ensure integrity of the data.

Preparedness to adopt new format

While expert certification may help the court in admission of electronic records, it is going to increase the workload of cyber laboratories. There is hardly any crime that does not use a smartphone nowadays. Many crimes are also solved with the help of call records and location information. However, if every certificate is to be signed by an expert, the workload will suddenly increase as many cyberlabs may not be equipped with sufficient manpower. Some cyberlabs (such as in Chhattisgarh) are not even notified under the IT Act to give expert opinion on electronic records.

It would have been reasonable had expert opinion been called for only when the integrity of the seized electronic record is disputed by the opposing party during trial. The courts may, in such cases, always ask for expert opinion. It could have been sufficient had the investigating officer ensured that one of the hash algorithms was applied and the message digest was attached with the certificate before it was collected.

There needs to be a general awareness drive now about the modes and methods of encryption, particularly for private agencies which install closed-circuit televisions on their premises or use other electronic devices for security purposes. Simultaneously, the time before July, must be used by the enforcement agencies to ensure that the required infrastructure is in place to take on the added responsibilities.

The views expressed are personal

Understanding the world of the informal waste picker

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On March 1, International Waste Pickers Day, waste pickers across the world will pay homage to fellow pickers who were murdered in Colombia in 1992. The world of the informal waste picker,– who is an often-forgotten, hyper-marginalised worker cohort in the waste value chain ecosystem, and an indispensable but invisible part of waste management systems in India – needs to be understood.

The International Labour Organization defines the informal sector in waste management as 'individuals or small and micro-enterprises that intervene in waste management without being registered and without being formally charged with providing waste management services'. These workers are the primary collectors of recyclable waste, playing a critical role in waste management and resource efficiency by collecting, sorting, trading and sometimes even reinserting discarded waste back into the economy. Yet, they face systemic marginalisation due to non-recognition, non-representation, and exclusion from social security schemes and legal protection frameworks.

What data shows

While reliable estimates of informal waste pickers are difficult to come by, the Centre for Science and Environment reported that the informal waste economy employs about 0.5%-2% of the urban population globally. Many are women, children and the elderly, who are often disabled, are the poorest of the urban poor, and face violence and sexual harassment often. The Periodic Labour Force Survey 2017-18 indicates that there are nearly 1.5 million waste pickers within India's urban workforce, with half a million being women.

On average, an individual waste picker collects between 60 kg to 90kg of waste a day in an eight to 10 hour span of time, often undertaking hazardous work without safety equipment. Their poor health, irregular work, low income, and regular harassment are compounded by their subordinate position in the caste hierarchy. Their health issues include dermatological and respiratory health issues apart from regular injuries. Waste pickers suffer existential precarity. Private sector participation in municipal solid waste management, by design, alienates them, aggravating their vulnerability and loss of rights over waste picking. As noted by the Alliance of Indian Waste Pickers (AIW) 2023 report, private actors employ expensive machinery, offering competitive rates to waste generators such as households and businesses, which marginalises informal pickers and forces them into hazardous waste picking, such as scavenging from dump sites. This worsens their health risks, compromises income, and lowers social status. Private players and municipal authorities often cordon off dump sites, pushing them into further vulnerability.

Despite their key role in the waste value chain ecosystem, waste pickers face systemic marginalisation, severe health hazards and exclusion from legal protection

Extended Producer Responsibility

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) has gained traction in India as a means to enhance plastic waste management. It transfers the responsibility of waste management from municipal authorities and holds commercial waste producers accountable. EPR appears seemingly promising, with potential for social inclusion for waste pickers and other informal grassroots actors. In practice, however, as noted by Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), EPR redirects waste away from the informal sector, threatening large-scale displacement of informal waste pickers.

The AIW has observed that EPR guidelines in India identify several stakeholders including the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), producers, brand owners, industry, industry associations, civil society organisations, and, of course, citizens themselves. But it is unclear whether these stakeholders include informal waste pickers, or their representing organisations. Although the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 mandate the inclusion of waste pickers in municipal solid waste management systems, they are evidently missing in the prioritisation. The EPR Guidelines 2022 published by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change have blatantly ignored the role of informal waste pickers in waste management and recycling.

Plastic Treaty and a just transition

Globally, waste pickers collect and recover up to 60% of all plastic which is then recycled, as in the 2022 World Economic Forum report. Despite their crucial role in sustainable recycling, their work is rarely valued and they struggle to earn a decent living. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Pew reports state that in 2016 alone, informal waste pickers collected 27 million metric tonnes of plastic waste (59% of all plastic material collected for recycling), preventing it from ending up in landfills or the ocean. But they also have to bear burning plastic fumes and consume water and air tainted by microplastics. When we endorse the UN resolution to end plastic pollution, to create a legally binding agreement by 2024, the treaty must ensure a just transition for these workers.

The role of waste pickers in successful plastic management has emerged as a critical factor as India's per capita plastic waste generation rises. As mentioned in a recent CPCB report, January 6 is plastic overshoot day for India – a country that is already among the 12 countries responsible for 52% of the world's mismanaged waste. The EPR mechanism holds producers responsible for plastic pollution, but only involves large recycling units, bypassing an entire workforce responsible for transformation of waste to recyclable material.

Waste pickers possess traditional knowledge around handling waste, which could strengthen the EPR system and its implementation. In this context, we need to rethink the formulation of EPR norms, while also addressing how to integrate millions of informal waste pickers into the new legal framework.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In Himachal Pradesh

It is a pity that the fate of the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh, one of the few States the party is in power in the country, is hanging by a thread (Page 1, February 29). It is quite common these days for leaders in the Opposition not to pause and to jump to any ruling party without batting an eyelid and announce that the move is in the 'interests of the people of his/her constituency'. It is a pity that a party like the BJP, which boasts being a party with moral values, encourages this. The BJP's slogan of a 'Congress-*mukt* Bharat' appears to be taking shape with a 'Congress-*yukt* India' (filled with Congress leaders) under its "Operation lotus".

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao
Hyderabad

Remarks and politics

It is appalling to hear unpalatable remarks being made by the Prime Minister of the country — "Time has come to drive DMK out, says PM" (Page 1, February 29). No one can forget the arrogance exhibited by the powerful ruling Congress party during the general election in 1967 and the poll outcome. The national parties should not forget that they have no presence of their own in Tamil Nadu and need the support of the Dravidian parties.

P.A.K. Murthy,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

In the opening paragraph of a report regarding Mizoram Assembly's resolution against border fencing (February 29, 2024), there was an erroneous reference to the 60-member Mizoram Assembly adopting the resolution. It should have been 40.

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Should Minimum Support Price be legalised?

PARLEY

Lakhwinder Singh

is Visting Professor, Institute for Human Development, New Delhi, and former Professor and head, Economics Department, Punjabi University, Patiala

Siraj Hussain

is former Union Agriculture Secretary and adviser of FICCI

On February 13, groups of farmers began a march to New Delhi, to press for fulfilment of their demands, which include a legal guarantee for purchasing crops at Minimum Support Price (MSP) and India's withdrawal from the World Trade Organization (WTO) which, they allege, places pressure on the Centre for drafting policies for procurement and MSP. While the Centre has fixed MSP for 23 farm commodities, it is implemented mostly for rice and wheat mainly because India has vast storage facilities for these grains and uses the produce for its public distribution system (PDS). The Union government has repeatedly asserted that a legal guarantee for MSP will not be possible. Should MSP be legalised? Siraj Hussain and Lakhwinder Singh discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **A.M. Jigeesh**. Edited excerpts:

Are the protests for a legalised MSP justified?

Lakhwinder Singh: These protests have been building up over time. In 2018 too, we saw tens of thousands of farmers from Maharashtra take to the streets. But their demands are perhaps not being listened to seriously, whether by State governments or the Central government.

There is a context to this. India introduced economic reforms in 1991 with a promise that we will soon become industrialised and the rural workforce will move from the agricultural to the industrial sector. More than 30 years later, agriculture has been squeezed in many ways but no one is talking about this agricultural crisis.

One of the most important demands of the farmers protesting this time is a legal guarantee for MSP. The public distribution system (PDS) gave support to farmers and ensured national food security. Now, India is expected to shift from food security to nutrition security. A legal guarantee for MSP for 23 crops is perhaps the way to do this. The farmers also want India to exit the WTO. We are in a phase of de-globalisation. When we have food shortages, for instance, the government imposes a ban on exports of food items (in defiance of the WTO). In a way, the demand of the farmers is in consonance with what the government does.

Siraj Hussain: The farmers are rightly concerned about the low prices of various crops. But their demands will not be accepted by any government in a hurry. We need a detailed, thorough review of agricultural trade policies and production and also what will happen to agriculture in the next 20-25 years.

After the 2020-21 protests, the government took seven months to set up a committee to look into this issue of MSP. More than a year and a half later, the committee has not even submitted an interim report.

Farmers carry paddy saplings in Nadia, West Bengal. PTI

Should MSP on all these crops be legalised? And will MSP survive without public procurement?

SH: The mandi system in the form of APMCs (agricultural produce market committees) is functional only in a few States. In most others, it is not functional. Less than one-third of the crop production in India is traded through mandis; the rest is sold by marginal farmers to village traders. So, even if MSP becomes legalised, it will be difficult to implement it because there is no record of who is buying and selling and at what rate. The government cannot be buying all the 23 crops - even for wheat and rice it faces lot of difficulties in procurement.

LS: Legalisation of MSP is in national interest. A large number of farmers sell commodities in informal markets. The government wants to make transactions digital and formal, so this is in consonance with the government's aim. Also, the gross fixed capital formation in the agricultural sector after the 1991 reforms has gone down tremendously. Farmers are in distress. Legalising MSP is the answer. Let me add that the government is not expected to buy all the 23 crops. But if at least 5-10% of the produce is purchased, it would be a marginal intervention and stabilise the prices.

Is it possible to extend the MSP system to the entire country, especially for subsistence farmers, as the government claims?

SH: Yes. Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha have shown that the procurement system can be expanded. Even in Bihar, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu, procurement of rice has increased over the last few years. But that is not the question. The question is whether the government should be procuring so much. It has

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> SIRAJ HUSSAIN

been procuring 50-60 million tonnes of rice. Is that a good policy regime? The root cause is PDS and now the government has made it free. That means that the government will continue to procure large quantities of wheat and rice.

Another concern is that legalised MSP will result in high prices affecting the consumers.

SH: I do not think it is possible for any government to procure all the commodities. It is not possible for the government to fix an MSP for everything. The basic question is how to ensure a remunerative price to farmers. My view is that it should be a State by State policy. Every State has a different regime. In Punjab, for instance, a price payment deficiency system is possible because the mandi system is well developed and the distance between two mandis is only 6 km, whereas at the all-India level it is 12 km. The States and the Centre should be talking to one another. Experts have to come up with a policy which will ensure that farmers receive a fair and remunerative price.

Another question which you should be asking macroeconomists is on food inflation. The government must also look after the interests of consumers. They have to try and balance the policies of import, export, and domestic MSP.

LS: When the government is not interested in legalising MSP and intellectuals are not interested in discussing these issues, fear is created among consumers that they are going to be fleeced. And a binary is created of farmers and consumers. The government is an intermediary, which has to protect the rights of both consumers and producers.

The most striking issue is food inflation. The local prices at which farmers are selling their produce are very low and do not cover the major costs involved (in production). On the other hand, consumers are facing huge price rise. Legalising MSP will reduce inflation, protect consumers, and give a relatively reasonable income to the farmers.

Also, regulating markets is important. The government has withdrawn from the regulatory mechanism and therefore in unorganised markets, intermediaries are active and creating inflationary pressures on the economy.

Farmers are also worried about input cost calculation methods such as A2+FL and C2+50%. What could be the best mechanism to calculate the input costs?

LS: The idea of C2+50% cost has come from industry. Agriculture requires remunerative prices. I think the C2 estimation of costs for agricultural crops is going to be almost comparable with other prices which we have in various sectors of the economy.

SH: There have been several suggestions, including a report by Dr. Ramesh Chand, about certain changes in the methodology of calculating the cost of cultivation. Those changes have not yet been decided. The problem is whatever price you fix, you are not able to ensure the A2+FL price. Sometimes, the price is so low that it is below the cost of cultivation.

The answer is not easy to find. The government cannot be deciding the prices of every agricultural commodity. Many farmers and organisations prefer selling to corporates because there used to be a lot of glut of at one point of time. Now, at least there are some large buyers. So, we can't say that corporates should be completely prevented from purchasing and storing agricultural commodities.

Are cooperatives an alternative to help farmers?

SH: Cooperatives have been successful in certain sectors. For example, in the milk sector, they brought the White Revolution in Gujarat. It was due to the failure of cooperatives that the government came up with the idea of farmer-producer organisations (FPOs). Now, we are going back to cooperatives. Any form of aggregation which can help the farmers in realising better prices is welcome. But both cooperatives and FPOs have been captured by influential vested interests in rural areas. If cooperatives can create storage structures where the farmers can store their produce at reasonable prices to reap the benefits of higher prices in the off season, they are welcome.

LS: When we have to look for alternatives, we cannot rely on a single intervention. If you want to promote cooperatives, bring in a law and storage capacity. Government-supported cooperatives have failed because of corruption. This organisation has a future, but we need a legal framework within which they can flourish. And they need supportive infrastructure.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

The silent architects behind compelling stories

Regional reporters are indispensable to all English language journalists

Abhinay Deshpande

As a journalist covering Maharashtra, I often travel across the State. These assignments involve more than just researching and packing a bag. The first step is to contact the local police, activists, academics, and journalists from other organisations. Speaking to various people provides reporters with context to the issue being covered, different perspectives, and, critically, nuance.

In this process, I have encountered many people who I consider the silent architects behind the most compelling stories. They are regional journalists. I try to meet many of them in person, but most of our interactions have largely been over the phone. These journalists have an in-depth understanding of the local landscape and have connections in every nook and corner. They remain behind the scenes and rarely seek recognition. They offer invaluable guidance and insights and don't expect to be quoted or mentioned in the final piece. They help simply because they share the reporter's goal of shining a torch on truths that might otherwise remain obscured.

Recently, I interacted with Bhagwat Taware, a regional journalist from Beed, and Kailash Tawar, an insurance agent and farmer from Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, where I went to report on farmer suicides. They had taken time off their routine work to help me comprehend the issue and engage with more people. They travelled with me in their respective districts.

It is not just reporters from the metros and from English language publications who seek their assistance; foreign journalists rely heavily on them too. They are the sources we cannot do without. They even take pride in seeing their contributions acknowledged indirectly when the journalists who report the story that they helped unearth receive awards.

Beyond their role as information providers, these people also extend hospitality. They treat us as guests.

"Recognition isn't what I'm seeking. What's important to us is that you've travelled all the way from Mumbai to shed light on the struggles that the people here face. Your report will be read by people in Delhi who will know that their government here obscures data," Mr. Taware explained to me on our way to a village.

At times, I feel that they take my reporting more seriously than even I do. During our interactions with the families of farmers who had passed away in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Mr. Tawar, having grasped my interviewing style, initiated the conversation himself and prepared the interviewees for the camera. He even asked me to interview one farmer's family, which was not scheduled, saying, "They have an interesting story to tell".

In February last year, when I visited Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu to report on how a woman and her family were left shattered by the gruesome killing of a nine-year-old tribal boy in a case of human sacrifice, Krunal Tailor, a local journalist who had covered the case extensively, accompanied me to the victim's family's house and even played the role of translator.

It is not always journalists who help in such ways. Local taxi drivers are essential allies during these assignments. Their knowledge of the region, understanding of the local culture, and adept navigation skills make them indispensable companions. While they may not be wielding pens or cameras, their contributions are often seen in the stories I tell.

To write stories, reporters need to form connections, understand realities, and find voices that deserve to be heard. Journalism is not a solitary endeavour; it is a collaborative exercise in which many people play a vital role and deserve to be acknowledged and appreciated.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A water crisis

The scorching heat in Karnataka over the last few weeks and the spectre of hotter days ahead have raised concern over depleting water levels in the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) reservoir, which is the main source of drinking water for major cities and towns in the region. The water level at the KRS on February 28 was 90.23 feet against the maximum reservoir level of 124.80 ft. This is the lowest since 2018 for the month of February. M.A. SRIRAM.

FROM THE ARCHIVES — The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 1, 1974

Additional taxation

New Delhi, Feb. 28: The Union Finance Minister, Mr. Y.B. Chavan to-day proposed additional taxation yielding a net amount of Rs. 186 crores for 1974-75. The budgetary gap of Rs. 311 crores has thus been reduced to Rs. 125 crores. The following are the changes in indirect taxes. Levy of auxillary duties at a rate of 10 per cent of the effective basic duty on unmanufactured tobacco, cigarettes, smoking mixtures, plywood and cement, at 20 per cent of the effective basic duty on dyestuffs, optical bleaching agents, gases, rubber products and plastics at 33 1/3 per cent of the effective basic duty on paints and varnishes and at 50 per cent of the effective basic duty on aerated waters, glycerine, cosmetics and toilet preparations. Substantial rise in basic excise duties in respect of "special boiling point" spirits, raw naphtha intended for methanol and petro chemicals, benzene, etc. used for a variety of purposes.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 1, 1924

Pudukotah Council

Pudukotah, February 28: Mr. P.K. Kunnhuni Menon the Dewan understood to have made ready various Bills of a social character for discussion by the new Legislative Council that will come into being shortly in the place of the existing Representative Assembly and the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Advisory Council.

From Page One

Six Cong. rebel MLAs in Himachal disqualified

"The Congress government is there and Mr. Sukhu is the Chief Minister. All the MLAs want the Congress government for five years," Mr. Shivakumar said, when asked if the party would replace the Chief Minister after the Rajya Sabha fiasco.

Backing of MLAs

Sources told *The Hindu* that Mr. Sukhu, who had called himself a *yodha* (warrior), clearly conveyed to the team of AICC observers that he had the backing of at least 10-12 MLAs and changing him before the Congress takes a vote of confidence would be detrimental to the party's interest.

The Chief Minister's response is part of a push-back from him after he was blamed for the Rajya Sabha debacle. Sources said Mr. Sukhu had recently met Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Uttar Pradesh.

The State was pushed into political turmoil on Tuesday, when Mr. Singhvi, the ruling Congress party's nominee for the State's sole Rajya Sabha seat, lost the election to the BJP's Harsh Mahajan after six Congress MLAs voted in favour of Mr. Mahajan, threatening the survival of their own government.

Sensing the collapse of the government, the Congress high command rushed the three observers while party general secretary Priyanka Vadra also worked behind the scenes. Her message was to take everyone along but come down hard on indiscipline.

Mr. Shivakumar said that the central observers had spoken to Mr. Sukhu, party MLAs and State unit chief Pratibha Singh individually and all differences had been ironed out. "All the MLAs have assured and taken an oath to work together to save the party and the government," he said.

However, many believe that the Congress has merely deferred its problems. If there is no stay on the disqualification by a court, under Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the Election Commission is duty-bound to conduct bypolls to Assembly constituencies of Dharamshala, Lahul-Spiti, Sujanpur, Barsar, Kutlehar and Gagret within six months. "With the disqualification, the Congress government has put itself in an uncomfortable zone. Whenever the Assembly bypolls are held, which could be along with the Lok Sabha polls as well, the Congress would have to put its best foot forward to win the seats again, which could become a difficult task amid the ongoing display of factionalism," said a party leader, who requested anonymity.

GDP growth for FY24 pegged at 7.6%

The full-year growth estimate was downgraded to 3% from the 4.4% reckoned in early January.

Farm sector GVA growth slipped into a 0.8% contraction in Q3, and the full year is now expected to record a mere 0.7% rise, compared with 4.7% in 2022-23. Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran said he expects the farm sector to recover next year. Acceleration in GVA growth from three key sectors has helped: construction, up 10.7%; manufacturing, which is up 8.5% from a 2.2% dip in 2022-23; and mining, up 8.1% versus 1.9% last year.

Upasna Bhardwaj, chief economist at Kotak Mahindra Bank, attributed this year's growth upgrade to the downward revision to last year's growth numbers, and the stronger investment and net exports, although consumption is lagging.

GVA growth in the employment-intensive trade, hotels, transport, communications, and broadcasting services sectors is expected to almost halve to 6.5% in 2023-24 from 12% in 2022-23. Mr. Nageswaran stressed that this comes on the back of very strong upticks in 2021-22 and 2022-23, so this is more of a stabilisation.

Mizoram says it won't collect biometrics of refugees

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Mizoram government will not collect the biometric details of refugees from Myanmar and Bangladesh in the State, Chief Minister Lalduhoma told the Assembly on Thursday.

According to Mizoram's Home Department, 32,221 people displaced by the civil war in Myanmar and 1,167 people fleeing alleged ethnic persecution in Bangladesh have taken refuge in the State since 2021.

The previous Mizo National Front (MNF) government had conducted training and appointed nodal officers for the purpose, but later decided not to collect biometric and biographic details of the refugees as it would "amount to discrimination against people of our blood".

The State election in November 2023 was also cited as a reason for declining to undertake the exercise.

"I told the Union Home Minister that the portal used for collecting biometric details is meant for deporting illegal immigrants. Our government, thus, decided not to collect the biometrics of the people from Myanmar and Bangladesh," Mr. Lalduhoma said.

West Bengal Police arrest Trinamool's Shahjahan

Strongman from North 24 Parganas sent to 10-day police custody over an attack on ED officials; party suspends him for six years; BJP terms the arrest 'scripted'; Sandeshkhali sees celebrations

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Controversial Trinamool Congress leader Sheikh Shahjahan was arrested by the West Bengal Police on Wednesday night over an attack on officials of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) last month.

The Trinamool leader, against whom multiple allegations of land grab and sexual assault have been levelled by villagers at Sandeshkhali, was sent to police custody for 10 days by a court in North 24 Parganas district on Thursday.

Hours after the arrest, the Trinamool suspended the party strongman from North 24 Parganas for six years.

Sandeshkhali has been on the boil since the first week of February after villagers held violent protests seeking action against Mr. Shahjahan and other local party leaders.

While Trinamool leaders Shiboprasad Hazra and Uttam Sardar, who were facing sexual assault charges, were arrested by the police, Mr. Shahajahan had evaded security agencies till now. His arrest comes 55 days after his supporters allegedly attacked an ED team during a search at his residence in Sandeshkhali on January 5, in connection with a PDS scam.

In the dock: Trinamool leader Sheikh Shahjahan being brought to a court in North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, on Thursday. PTI

The High Court had on several occasions wondered why he was not arrested.

Announcing the party's decision to suspend Mr. Shahjahan, Trinamool leader Derek O'Brien dared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to suspend "Narayan Rane or Himanta Biswa Sharma or Suvendu Adhikari tomorrow or day after". (These BJP leaders have been facing allegations of corruption.)

Mr. Modi is expected to visit the State on Friday.

The police refuted allegations that they did not "deliberately" arrest the Trinamool leader.

As regards the fresh complaint filed against Mr. Shahjahan by the villagers, Supratim Sarkar, the Additional Director-General (South Bengal) of the West Bengal Police, clarified that if a complaint was filed over a case that occurred two to three years ago, it would take time to probe the same. During the day, the police also arrested Amir Ali Gazi, an associate of Mr. Shahjahan, who is wanted in a case of sexual assault.

Villagers celebrate

As soon as the news of the arrest reached Sandeshkhali, the villagers started celebrating. Sweets were distributed and women hugged each other.

They sought stringent punishment for him. Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari and BJP MLA Sankar Ghosh visited Jeliakhali in Sandeshkhali and rejoiced with the villagers.

The State BJP said the arrest was scripted. "He will get a five-star facility in jail and get to use phones to control the area. As long as the Central agencies do not catch hold of him, nothing will change," Mr. Adhikari said. State BJP president Sukanta Majumdar said the arrest was a "face-saving" act by the State's ruling dispensation.

The CPI(M) leadership, led by State secretary Mohammad Salim, took out a rally in Sandeshkhali and called the arrest a "conspiracy".

Illegal mining case: Akhilesh fails to appear before CBI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday failed to appear before the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to record his witness statement in connection with an illegal minor mineral mining case.

Mr. Yadav, through his lawyer, reportedly told the agency that he would not be able to join the probe due to prior commitments, but promised all possible cooperation.

The agency had registered the case on the Allahabad High Court's direction. The then Hamirpur District Magistrate, B. Chandrakala; mining officer Moinuddin; and mining clerk Ram Ashrey Prajapati were named along with several leaseholders. It was alleged that during 2012-16 the public servants had allowed illegal mining of minor minerals in Hamirpur.

Speaking to pressperson in Lucknow, Mr. Yadav described the CBI as a wing of the BJP.

"Summons before [Lok Sabha] polls, they [CBI] act as *prakoshth* [wing] of the BJP. I have replied to the papers that I had received," Mr. Yadav said.

Manipur Police accuse radical outfit of extortion, assault

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

In the first official confirmation of the havoc being caused by a radical Meitei group, the Manipur Police on Thursday said that Arambai Tenggol was engaged in many "anti-social activities", such as assaulting civilians, snatching vehicles from public and government officials, and extortion from businessmen.

The group, which enjoys the support of the Meitei people in the valley areas, gained prominence after ethnic riots between the Meitei and the tribal Kuki-Zo people erupted in the State on May 3, 2023.

Two days after Arambai Tenggol members attacked a senior police officer, the State Police said in a statement that the outfit was garnering false support from the public in the guise of protecting the people but was actually committing many anti-social activities and criminal acts.

The statement by the Manipur Police comes days after Arambai Tenggol members abducted an officer. REUTERS

The presence of the Indian Army and other Central security forces would be enhanced in the wake of the "Manipur Police being targeted", the police said.

"Combing operations will continue in the days to come and no one responsible for such criminal activities will be spared. People should cooperate in police work," they added.

On February 28, the local administration in the valley and hill districts of Imphal, Bishnupur, Thoubal, Churachandpur, and Kangpokpi had requisitioned reinforcements from the Assam Rifles, amid the possibility of a "widespread breach of peace due to movement of armed miscreants and underground outfits".

Officer's abduction

The Manipur Police's reaction comes days after Additional Superintendent of Police M. Amit Singh and his associate were attacked and abducted by Arambai Tenggol members after the arrest of its Sekmai unit chief for allegedly snatching two vehicles from a government oil depot.

The police described the incident as "unprecedented and unprovoked".

On Thursday, a head constable, identified as A. Kanan Singh, who allegedly helped the Arambai Tenggol cadre launch the attack against the police officer, was suspended for "gross misconduct which is not expected from a member of a disciplined force like the police department."

"The Manipur Police Department highly condemns the incident of life attempt on one of the Additional Superintendent of Police (Operations), Imphal West, other police officers and men in the evening of February 27 by members of Arambai Tenggol. During the incident, the family members of Moirangthem Amit Singh were also intimidated by firing bullets, besides vandalising houses and properties," the police said.

The officer was also abducted, beaten, and later released after intervention by the department.

"In connection with this incident, numerous concocted narratives are being circulated on various platforms, including social media, leading to character assassination of the said officer and the police department as a whole. In this regard, it is important for right thinking people to understand the origin of events which have led to this unprecedented and unprovoked incident," the statement said.

The police said that on the afternoon of February 27, information was received about two cars being stolen by armed miscreants from the government oil depot.

"Based on this information, the said officers, namely M. Amit Singh, Inspector P. Achouba Meitei, and other teams had conducted search and intercepted the two vehicles which were stolen/snatched, along with apprehension of one individual who was part of committing the crime," the police said.

"It is to state that the members of Arambai Tenggol had carried out targeted attack on the above officers as well as attacked the house and properties of the ASP in connection with the above incident and for lawful discharge of duties. It is to be pointed out that the officers and others have been working tirelessly and contributing to the efforts to ensure law and order in the State, especially Imphal West District," they said.

The statement added that the police department have been putting all-out efforts to ensure law and order in the State, and appealed to the public to extend their cooperation to the department, requesting people to refrain from spreading rumours and circulating fake news.

Stay orders of HCs won't lapse automatically: Supreme Court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it could not unnecessarily fiddle with well-thought-out interim orders of High Courts staying criminal and civil proceedings. A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said the top court had no power whatsoever to declare that a stay order passed by a High Court after due application of mind would automatically expire within six months.

The five-judge Bench was deciding a reference made to it about the correctness of a 2018 judgment in *Asian Resurfacing of Road Agency Vs CBI*.

A three-judge Bench, in 2018, had held that interim but open-ended stay orders would get vacated by default after six months unless their period of operation was extended periodically.

"Putting such constraints on the power of the High Court will also amount to making a dent on the jurisdiction of the High Courts under Article 226 of the Constitution, which is an essential feature that forms part of the basic structure of the Constitution," Justice A.S. Oka, who authored the lead opinion, held.

In his concurring opinion, Justice Pankaj Mithal, an Associate Judge on the Bench, agreed that a "reasoned stay order, if not specified to be time bound, would remain in operation till there is a decision in the main matter or until and unless an application is moved for vacation and a speaking order is passed".

The Bench further clarified that the top court cannot "normally" fix time-bound schedules for High Courts or trial courts to dispose of pending cases. The reasons for pendency may vary from court to court.

"The situation at the grassroots level is better known to the judges of the courts concerned. Orders fixing the outer limit for the disposal of cases should be passed only in exceptional circumstances to meet extraordinary situations," it held.

The judgment made it plain that the Supreme Court had no absolute power of hegemony over the High Courts. The Bench highlighted that the top court's seemingly invincible power under Article 142 of the Constitution to do "complete justice" did not extend to excessive interference in orders passed by High Courts after due consideration.

End pact with Kuki-Zo groups, Manipur Assembly tells Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the Manipur Assembly on Thursday passed a resolution to urge the Union government to abrogate the suspension of operations (SoO) pact with Kuki-Zo insurgent groups, in effect since 2008, suspense prevailed over the extension of the agreement.

The 10 Kuki-Zo-Hmar legislators were not present in the Assembly when the resolution was passed.

The pact was signed in 2008 by the United Peoples' Front (UPF) and the Kuki National Organisation (KNO), an umbrella of 24 insurgent groups, the Union Home Ministry, and the Manipur government. The annual extension of the pact lapses on Thursday.

A source said that the Manipur government did not send its representative to a meeting called to formalise the extension of the pact for the next year. The Ministry officials did not respond to queries from *The Hindu* regarding the status of the agreement.

N. Biren Singh

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said the resolution was aimed at ensuring peace in the region. "The 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly on the second day of its fifth session, unanimously resolved to urge the Central Government to completely abrogate the SoO pact with all the Kuki-Zo militant groups. This decision comes in the interest of ensuring peace and security in the region," he wrote in a post on X on Thursday.

Former Chief Minister O. Ibobi Singh and leader of the Congress party said the SoO pact had been signed between the Assam Rifles and some Kuki militant groups in 2005.

"It was done without the knowledge of the Manipur government. The State forces continued to arrest the militants. Another SoO was signed in 2008 with the participation of the State government," Mr. Singh said.

The agreement was signed in the wake of the Kuki-Naga clashes of the 1990s when hundreds were killed.

Court acquits Tunda in 1993 train blasts case

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Abdul Karim Tunda, the main accused in the 1993 serial train blasts case, was acquitted by a special Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) court in Ajmer on Thursday. He is currently serving a life term in another case.

Two persons were killed and several injured in the serial blasts on five trains in Lucknow, Kanpur, Hyderabad, Surat, and Mumbai on the first anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition.

The court sentenced two other accused, Irfan, alias Pappu, 70, and Hamiduddin, 44, to life imprisonment. The CBI, which was in charge of the probe, could not prove the case against Tunda beyond reasonable doubt.

APPEAL

Baby Siddaramayya Nelagudda, Son of Ravichandra Nelagudda 2 years admitted in Mazumdar Shaw Medical Centre, is suffering from Beta Thalassemia Major. The only curative treatment is Bone Marrow Transplant. The estimated cost of Transplant at this hospital is approximately **Rs.21,50,000/-**.
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'20 Indians sought help to return from battlefront'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India on Thursday for the first time categorically stated that "around 20" Indians had reached out to its embassy in Moscow seeking help in returning home. The External Affairs Ministry's official spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, said India was in contact with Russia to bring back the Indian nationals from the zone where Russian and Ukrainian forces are clashing.

"We have an understanding that 20-odd people are stuck. We are trying our level best for their early discharge. We have issued two statements, which you saw. We have also told people not to venture in the war zone or get caught into situations which are difficult," Mr. Jaiswal said.

The Ministry had earlier stated that all such cases concerning Indian workers stuck in the war zone near the Ukraine border had been taken up with the Russian authorities and that, as a result, several had been released. But on Thursday, Mr. Jaiswal gave the numbers of Indians who are still caught in the difficult situation. "We are in regular touch with Russian authorities both here in New Delhi and also in Moscow," he said.

The Hindu had carried a report that at least three Indians had been forced to fight as "army security helpers" for the Russian side.

First technical team from India arrives in Maldives

External Affairs Ministry confirms that the group will replace military troops operating advanced light helicopters and other aircraft for the country, marking a climbdown on New Delhi's stance

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The government confirmed on Thursday that a team of Indian technical personnel have landed in Maldives to replace military troops that have been operating aircraft there. The development indicates a compromise between the Narendra Modi government and the recently elected government led by President Mohamed Muizzu on the contentious issue of Indian troops stationed in the archipelago that had become the target of the "India Out" campaign run by the ruling party.

"The first team of technical personnel to operate the advanced light helicopter at Gan has reached Maldives. It will replace the existing personnel that were until now operating this platform. So, that is where we are," said Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal in response to questions about the move, that was first announced by the Maldives government on Wednesday. Mr. Jaiswal did not indicate the number of troops being replaced in the first batch of a total 88 Indian military personnel understood to be stationed in the Maldives.

The confirmation also marks a major climbdown by New Delhi that had earlier refused to withdraw the troops, including in 2018 when former President Abdulla Yameen had demanded the removal of Indian military personnel on several occasions, even refusing to extend their visas. After Mr. Yameen was defeated in elections by President Ibrahim Solih, the issue had subsided, but was revived as a campaign plank by Mr. Muizzu, who won elections in November 2023 and made the removal of Indian military personnel a "priority".

Rough weather: The advanced light helicopter that India provided to the Maldives for operations. FILE PHOTO

Ahead of 'deadline'

The announcement on the first batch of replacements comes ahead of the March 10 "deadline" that the Maldives government had reportedly given India after PM Modi met with President Muizzu in early December, and the leaders set up a high-level "core group" to discuss the issue. While the Maldivian government repeatedly said that the decision to replace troops with civilian technical personnel had been taken, New Delhi had been tight-lipped on the matter, saying only that the two sides were seeking "workable" and "mutually acceptable" solutions.

On February 4, however, Mr. Muizzu surprised many by announcing to the Maldivian Majlis or parliament that a deal had indeed been struck.

"As per the most recent discussions, military personnel on one of the three aviation platforms will be recalled before March 10, 2024. The military personnel on the remaining two platforms will also be recalled by May 10, 2024," Mr. Muizzu had said. Subsequently, the Ministry had said that the troops would be replaced by "competent technical personnel", but refused to comment on whether they would be civilian or military.

The differences over the issue of stationed troops had led to other acrimonious exchanges between the two countries in January, and Maldives had skipped a key security conference in Mauritius, for the Colombo Security Dialogue, and downgraded its presence at the Indian Ocean Conference in Perth. With the first step towards resolving the contentious issue seemingly taken, India and Maldives indicated that they were restoring progress in some of their other areas of strategic cooperation.

On Sunday, India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives completed the latest round of biennial trilateral maritime exercises called "Dosti-16" held between their coast guard services. Speaking at the inauguration of the exercises, where Bangladesh participated as an observer, Maldivian Defence Minister Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon said that the Muizzu government "places the highest priority on ensuring that close relations, peace and stability is maintained between Maldives and neighbouring nations".

Attacks on BSF personnel by criminals may be raised during Bangladesh talks

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

India is expected to raise the issue of violent attacks against Border Security Force (BSF) personnel perpetrated by criminals along the eastern border in a meeting with Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) scheduled in Dhaka next week.

At the next round of biannual Director-General (DG) talks between the BSF and BGB, the Indian delegation is also likely to raise the incidents of "breach of fence" and entry of Bangladesh nationals through illegal means. Smuggling of arms, narcotics and gold is likely to be on the agenda. The Indian delegation will be led by BSF DG Nitin Agarwal.

According to data available with *The Hindu*, since 2018, as many as 204 BSF personnel deployed along the Bangladesh border have been injured by miscreants.

"The criminals, who also include their Indian accomplices, use firearms, country-made bombs, sharp-edged weapons and also use stones and bamboo logs to attack the personnel. In 2023 alone, 40 BSF personnel were injured. Since the last round of talks with BGB officials in May 2023, 60 such cases of attacks against BSF and civilians have been reported," a senior government official said.

On vigil: Border Security Force personnel on patrol near the India-Bangladesh border in Agartala, Tripura. FILE PHOTO

India adopted a non-lethal weapon policy in 2011 after Felani Khatun, a 15-year-old girl from Bangladesh, was shot dead by the BSF while she was entering India along the Cooch Behar border in West Bengal. Photographs of the teenager's body that remained hanging on the barbed wire fence for several hours before being brought down created a huge public outcry in Bangladesh.

BSF officials say that they often came under violent attack by cattle smugglers active along the border and the non-lethal weapon policy was an impediment to their operational capabilities.

The BSF personnel use regular weapons as and when the situation demands but the proportion of non-lethal weapons is much higher among total firing incidents along the border.

Data suggest that 2023 saw the least number of firing instances by BSF compared to the last six years.

In 2023, while 287 rounds of ammunition were fired from regular weapons, those by non-lethal weapons which include stun grenades, chili grenade, pump action guns and blank fires stood at 2,924 rounds.

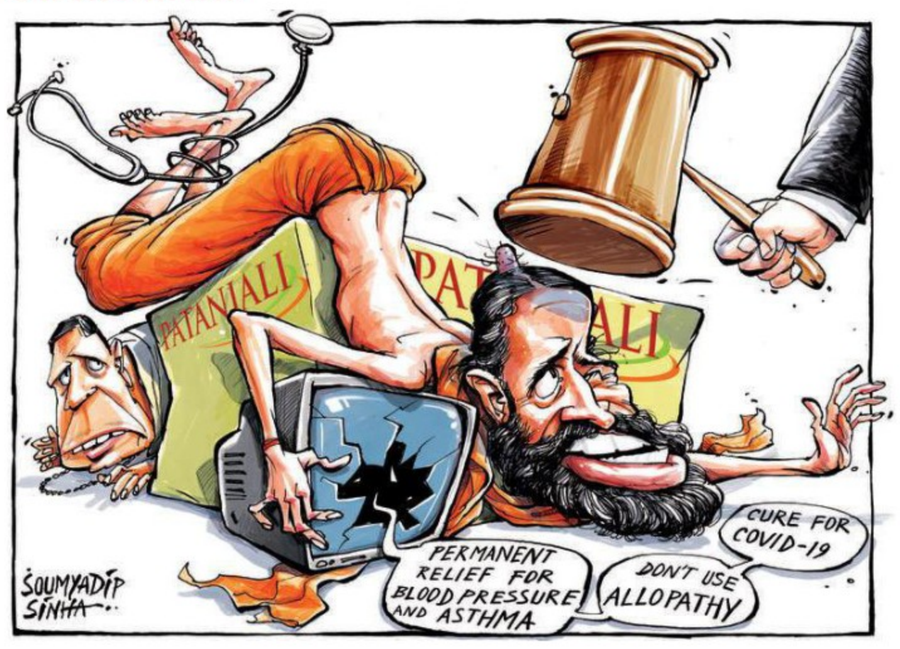
The guidelines

According to the Joint Indo-Bangladesh Guidelines for Border Authorities, 1975, it is the duty of the border guarding forces on both sides to prevent the entry of armed civilians up to 150 yards on either side.

The BGB delegation will be apprised that since the last round of talks with BGB officials in May 2023, as many as 262 incidents of breach of fence have been reported. Since 2017, a total of 3,090 such incidents have been reported.

Since 2018, as many as 17,637 Bangladeshi nationals were intercepted by the BSF along the eastern border while 3,342 individuals were caught in 2023.

On the draw



Cabinet okays ₹75,000-crore 'free electricity' solar scheme

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet approved a ₹75,021-crore package for the 'PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana' (PM Free Electricity scheme) to promote rooftop solar (RTS) installations in India.

The scheme envisages providing 300 units of "free electricity" every month to one crore households. However, it was not immediately clear how the scheme officially unveiled on Thursday would result in free electricity to one crore households.

The Centre will fund, an accompanying press statement from the Union Power Ministry says, 60% of the cost for installing 2 kW (kilowatt) systems and 40% of the cost for systems of 2-3 kW capacity.

Systems of higher wattage will not be eligible for central subsidy.

"At current benchmark prices, this will mean ₹30,000 subsidy for 1 kW systems, ₹60,000 for 2 kW systems and ₹78,000 for 3 kW systems or higher," a press statement from the Ministry noted.

Applying for subsidy

As a next step, households will apply for subsidy through a Central portal and be able to select a suitable vendor for installing a rooftop solar system. The national portal will assist the households in their decision-making process by providing relevant information such as appropriate system sizes, benefits calculator, vendor rating, etc.

For the remaining costs, households will be able to "access collateral-free low-interest loan products of around 7% at present for installation of residential RTS systems up to 3 kW," the release noted. This implies that minus the Central subsidy, the rest of the installation expenses have to be borne by the aspirant consumer.

Power Minister R.K. Singh, had explained the financing of the scheme differently in an interaction with reporters, as reported by *The Hindu*, on February 3. He had said that public sector units, affiliated to the Ministry, would be reaching out to "eligible" households and install the rooftop solar systems for free.

Repaying loans

The PSU, or its affiliated agency, would be responsible for taking out a loan to finance the component not funded by the Central subsidy. This loan would be repaid to the bank by consumers selling surplus power produced back to the grid.

In his interaction, he said that "60% of the cost of installation will be subsidised by the Centre. For the rest, [a Central] public sector unit will take a loan [from a bank] and will repay from the cost of electricity [used by the household] over and above the 300 units."

Cabinet nod for ₹24,420-cr. subsidy for P&K fertilizers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved the nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) rates for the upcoming kharif season for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers and the inclusion of three more fertilizer grades under the NBS scheme.

The Centre said tentative budgetary requirements for the scheme would be about ₹24,420 crore. The subsidy on nitrogen has been fixed at ₹47.02 per kilogram, phosphatic (P) at ₹28.72 per kg (₹20.82 per kg in 2023 rabi season), potassic (K) at ₹2.38 per kg, and sulphur (S) at ₹1.89 per kg. The subsidy on nitrogen, potassic, and sulphur was the same in the 2023 rabi season too.

The government said the decision would ensure the availability of fertilizers to farmers at subsidised, affordable and reasonable prices and rationalisation of subsidy on P&K fertilizers in view of recent trends in the international prices of fertilizers and inputs.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER — TENDER NOTICE
Adv.No.100/D3/CE/TTD/2023-24 & NIT No.295 to 296/SE-I & 170/SE-III/TTD/2023-24 Dt:29/02/2024
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Date of start on online application: 21.02.2024
Last date of submission of online application: 20.03.2024
Last date of receipt of hardcopy: 28.03.2024
Sd/-
Registrar (I/c)

DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
VIBHUTI KHAND, GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW- 226 010 (UP)
Phone: 0522-4918504, 49185512, Website : www.drrmlims.ac.in
E-mail: directordrrmlims@gmail.com
No. 533/Estb.2/Dr.RMLIMS/2024 — Date: 28/02/2024
Sub: Cancellation of Recruitment Advertisement- Non-Teaching Post
The following Non-Teaching posts which were advertised in our combined recruitment Advt. No. 04 to 19 / Estb.-2 / Rectt./ Dr.RMLIMS / 2022 / 2764 dated 8/10/2022, are hereby cancelled and withdrawn with immediate effect :-

Sl No.	Name of the Post	Reference of Advt.
1	Assistant Dietician	11/Estb.2/Rectt./Dr.RMLIMS/2022
2	Medical Record Technician	18/Estb.2/Rectt./Dr.RMLIMS/2022

For reasons, kindly visit the Institute website **www.drrmlims.ac.in**
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Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
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2023051	Waste and Scrap of Polythene Sheets	18.03.2024

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)
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Telephone No. 080-22133370
Short Term Tender Notification No. 10/2023-24
Dated- 26.02.2024
Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, No. 2, Buildings Division, Bengaluru on behalf of the Governor as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 and KW-1,2,3&4 procedure from the contractors registered in PWD through e-procurement portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** in Two cover system for the works of Residential buildings in Koramangala; Residential buildings in Jeevanbhima Nagar; Buildings in K R Circle; Bengaluru City Civil Court buildings; Residential houses in Thimmenahalli; CMM Court Buildings; Residential houses in Wilson Garden; Residential houses in Kaval Bairasandra in Bengaluru. (Reservation: Sl. No. 1 to 9 : Scheduled Caste; Sl No. 10 to 14: Scheduled Tribe; Sl No. 15 to 61: Others). The tender processing cost and EMD details are given in e-portal.
1. The tender documents shall be downloaded from e-procurement portal from **26.02.2024** to **04.03.2024** upto **4.30 P.M.**
2. The last date for submission of tender through e-procurement portal is on **04.03.2024** upto **4.30 P.M.**
3. The tender will be opened through e-procurement portal on **05.03.2024** at **4.30 P.M.**
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Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD No.2 Buildings Division, Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/3972/Zen/2023-24

INBRIEF

₹30-lakh penalty on Air India over passenger's death: DGCA

The the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), has imposed a penalty of ₹30 lakh on Air India for the death of an 80-year-old passenger from a cardiac arrest after a delay in providing him a wheelchair at the Mumbai airport, earlier this month. The DGCA said that the airline failed to conform to its rules on the carriage of persons with disability. Air India also didn't inform the regulator "about any action taken by the airline against the erring employee(s) and the airline also failed to submit any corrective actions taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents".

Railways removes loco pilot from service for 'negligence'

The Northern Railways has removed from service the loco pilot of a freight train which ran about 70 km on its own from Jammu's Kathua to Punjab's Unchi Bassi, saying his "negligence" could have resulted in a "major incident" causing loss of lives. A notice was issued by the senior divisional mechanical engineer. The loco pilot, Sandeep Kumar, "failed to fulfil his duties". He adopted a shortcut and used improper engine stabling procedures which led to it rolling down along with 53 wagons in the Firozpur Division, the notice stated. "It also brought a bad name to the safety image of Indian Railway as a whole and Northern Railway in particular", it added. PTI

India's leopard population rises to 13,874; M.P. on top

Forest surveyors cover nearly 6.5 lakh km looking for carnivore signs across 20 States; man-animal conflict is likely the reason for decline in the big cat population by 22% in Uttarakhand, says report

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India's leopard numbers rose by 8% from 12,852 in 2018 to 13,874 in 2022, according to a report made public by the Environment Ministry on Thursday.

While the highest number of leopards were reported in Madhya Pradesh (3,907), only three other States reported over 1,000 animals each – Maharashtra (1,985), Karnataka (1,879) and Tamil Nadu (1,070). While Uttarakhand reported a 22% decline in the big cat numbers – reportedly due to poaching and man-animal conflict, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and West Bengal saw a collective 150% rise to 349 animals.

The survey covered 20 States of India, and focused on about 70% of the animals' expected habitat, which are India's tiger reserves and protected forest areas. Unlike tigers, which are largely confined to forest reserves, leopards are far more adaptable and tend to be found in significant numbers, in villages and sometimes, even in cities. They are also known to prey on cattle and thus be involved in conflict, resulting in higher mortality.

On the prowl: Leopards are very adaptable and tend to be found in significant numbers in villages and sometimes, even in cities. ANI

Habitat conservation

"About a third of the leopards are within protected areas. When we conserve tiger reserves, we also conserve leopard habitat," said Qamar Qureshi of the Wildlife Institute of India and one of the authors of the report. The analysis – coordinated by the Wildlife Institute of India – only looked at forest areas where a similar survey was done in 2018. The Shivalik hills and the Gangetic plains recorded 3.4% yearly decline, while Central India and the Eastern Ghats, the Western Ghats and the hills of the northeast, and the Brahmaputra flood plains recorded growth of 1.5%, 1%, and 1.3% per annum respectively. "The population in the last four years is stable, which also indicates the growth is minimal and in comparison to tigers, leopard population is likely getting impacted by people in multiple use areas," the report added.

Leopard numbers have declined in Ramnagar forest division (Uttarakhand), where tiger numbers have shown a very steep growth in the past four years. About 65% of the leopard population is present outside protected areas in the Shivalik landscape. In Uttar Pradesh, both leopard and tiger numbers have increased, the report noted.

Forest surveyors travel 6,41,449 km for carnivore signs and prey abundance estimation. Camera traps were deployed at 32,803 locations, resulting in 4,70,81,881 photographs.

The sharp rise in numbers reported out of the northeastern States were the result of a "sampling artefact", said Dr. Qureshi, meaning that previous years saw very little of a systematic survey and fewer cameras installed.

Fatal fall: The pick-up van that overturned in an accident at the Shahpura area of Dindori district on Thursday. AFP

14 killed as pick-up van falls into valley in Madhya Pradesh

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

Fourteen people were killed and more than 20 injured when an overloaded pick-up van overturned and fell into a valley in Dindori district of Madhya Pradesh on Thursday. Eight women and a 16-year-old boy were among the deceased.

The incident took place around 2 a.m when the passengers were returning from a function in Mandla district. The driver lost control of the vehicle and it fell into the valley.

Minister Sampatiya Uikey said the victims hailed from the tribal community. "The Chief Minister has given directions for a high-level inquiry into the accident," she told presspersons.

Dindori Superintendent of Police Akhil Patel said the driver and owner of the vehicle had been arrested. A case has been registered under Section 304 (II) of the IPC, he said, adding that the vehicle's fitness certificate and insurance had expired in 2022.

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the incident. The Prime Minister's Office announced an assistance of ₹2 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased and ₹50,000 for the injured.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav also announced an assistance of ₹4 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased.

Don't segregate prisoners on basis of caste, religion: govt.

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Union government has taken a serious view of some States discriminating against prisoners on the basis of their caste and religion and assigning them work accordingly. Saying that it was unconstitutional, the Union Home Ministry wrote to the Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories urging them to ensure that their Jail Manuals did not contain any discriminatory provisions.

The Constitution of India prohibited any kind of discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, and place of birth.

The Model Prison Manual, 2016, prepared by the Ministry and circulated to all States and Union Territories in May 2016, explicitly prohibited caste- and religion-based discrimination of prisoners in the management of the kitchen or cooking of food on a caste or religious basis.

"The manual also provides that any special treatment to a group of prisoners belonging to a particular caste or religion is strictly prohibited. It further provides that no classification of prisoners shall be allowed on grounds of socio-economic status, caste or class... In case any such provision exists, immediate steps must be taken to amend/remove the discriminatory provision from the Manual/Act. It is reiterated that there should be no caste-based assignment of duties or work in the prisons," the Ministry said.

Healthcare provisions

Stating that the medical care of prisoners was one of the significant concerns of prison management, the Ministry said it had been sending advisories from time to time to ensure that due importance was given to the physical and mental well-being of inmates.

Going by the provisions of the Model Prison Manual, 2016, periodic health check-up of prisoners should be conducted.

Besides, health check-up or screening of prisoners for infectious diseases, including sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and Hepatitis should be done.

A special health screening camp for women and transgender prisoners was also among the priorities.

Data relating to the health-check camps should be updated on the e-Prisons portal implemented as part of the e-prisons project to create end-to-end information technology solutions for the automation of prison operations. The Ministry also stressed digitisation and availability of prisoner records on an electronic platform accessible to designated authorities enabling them to have direct access to information related to the prisoners.

Armed forces likely to get non-functional upgrade benefit

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Colonels will get arrears of up to ₹16 lakh and Colonels around ₹8 lakh to ₹10 lakh

In a move to address one of the core anomalies of the Services with their civil counterparts in the government, the Centre has decided to grant non-functional upgrade (NFU) benefit over which a legal battle has been going on for some time.

"The government has taken a decision to inform the court in the next hearing that the armed forces will also be given NFU," an official source said.

NFU entitles all officers of a batch who are not promoted to draw the salary and grade pay that the seniormost officer of their batch would get after a certain period. The Sixth Pay Commission had granted NFU to most officers of Organised Group 'A' services but not the military. However, the Seventh Pay Commission (SPC) gave a mixed verdict on it and the issue was referred to the anomalies committee following strong objections from the three Services.

Once granted, the biggest beneficiaries of NFU would be officers in the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Lieutenant-Colonels who don't get empanelled to the next rank remain in the same pay bracket and their numbers are large due to the steep hierarchy, one official said, adding that NFU would be a morale booster. Post implementation, Lieutenant-Colonels are likely to get arrears of up to ₹16 lakh and Colonels around ₹8 lakh to ₹10 lakh, the source said.

Lancet study shows obesity rates going up across world

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

Obesity rates among children and adolescents worldwide increased four times from 1990 to 2022, while obesity rates among adults have more than doubled, a new study published in *The Lancet* has revealed.

The total number of children, adolescents and adults worldwide living with obesity has surpassed one billion. In total, 159 million children and adolescents, and 879 million adults were obese in 2022.

Form of malnutrition

Along with the declining prevalence of people who are underweight since 1990, obesity has become the most common form of malnutrition in most countries, said the paper that analysed global data estimates.

The study was conducted by the NCD Risk Factor Collaboration (NCD-RisC), in collaboration with the World Health Organization. Over 1,500 researchers in more than 190 countries analysed weight and height measurements of over 220 million people aged five years or older. They reportedly looked at body mass index (BMI) to understand how obesity and underweight have changed worldwide from 1990 to 2022.

Obesity has become the most common form of malnutrition in most countries. GETTY IMAGES

Representatives from the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation were among the co-authors of the study in India. V. Mohan, Anjana Ranjit and Guha Pradeepa, who were also instrumental in the countrywide INdiab study, were co-authors.

Coexisting conditions

Dr. Mohan said that in India, both obesity and underweight continue to coexist. "We have also seen, as part of the INdiab study that both abdominal obesity and generalised obesity are increasing in the population, with of course variations in rural areas."

As per *The Lancet* paper, in India, the obesity rate increased from 0.1% in 1990 to 3.1% in 2022 for girls, and 0.1% to 3.9%, for boys.

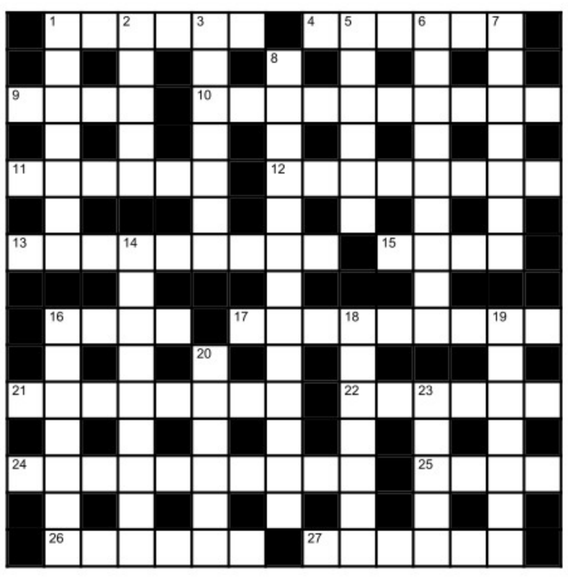
In the prevalence of obesity category for girls and boys, India ranked 174th highest in the world in 2022. Among adults, the change was starker: in women, the obesity rate increased from 1.2% in 1990 to 9.8% in 2022 and in men from 0.5% to 5.4%.

TH CROSSWORD + 14111

(set by Bruno)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 One found in peat, a source of sustainable energy? (6)
4 Engineer at Academy has place that is turned over and battered (4-2)
9 *beep*!! A canine's killed husband! (4)
10 Source of energy from good ole' earth perhaps - man's surrounded by it (10)
11 Rodent's crazy appearance - going backwards (6)
12 Start of April through end of August, setter's on flight (8)
13 Odd folky number captivated white boxer (9)
15 Bar lacking entrance to path (4)
16 Peeled kernel for eagle (4)
17 Cream pie starting to decompose after setting - enjoy the pleasure right now (5,4)
21 Dispatching delivery with turn - covered hip and glanced from the top (8)
22 Condition to withdraw from horror and hostility (6)
24 Owns vehicle? (10)
25 Slender object broke off at the end (4)
26 Animal grabbing a rodent's head and another body part (6)
27 Law diploma? 100 for $1000! (6)

Down

1 Lifebuoy's mostly made with green energy (7)
2 Remote cycling path (5)
3 Asian-American devotee goes to India to obtain good husband (7)
5 Overturned evidence used to arrest, often hang, native (6)
6 Black art - crowd regularly went crazy for a way to predict the future? (5,4)
7 Female bird holding up plant for female bird (7)
8 Increase in temperature of volatile star with a halogen- iodine - in the middle (5,4,4)
14 One source of energy to get crushed powder (4,5)
16 Extracted from zibeth - an old source of energy (7)
18 Herald creeped around (7)
19 Corkscrew went spiralling in end of bottle (7)
20 Refuse to take responsibility for one's depressing surrounding (6)
23 Heavenly body, but no love or rhythm (5)

SUDOKU

7			2				4	
	2		3			8		1
3		9	1		4			6
1			7					
				4				
					6			3
5			9		7	2		8
2		8			3		1	
	1				8			5

No.SS6084 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

O		B		S				S		T		D		A
F		I		R		S		T		N		O		T
F		I		I		I		R		E		M		B
E		N		D		O		R		S		E		E
R		G						C		S		T		N
S		P		E		C		I		M		E		N
						N				E		E		N
C		I		T		A		D		E		L		D
R		R				U		I				T		
I		T		E		M		S		T		R		A
T		S		T				E		L				C
E		M		P		E		R		O		R		T
R		A		I		A		E		I		L		S
I		N		S		P		E		C		T		O
A		S		S		E				K		T		L

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	9	4	5	1	8	7	2	3
2	3	1	7	4	9	8	6	5
8	7	5	3	2	6	9	4	1
4	1	6	8	7	3	5	9	2
9	2	8	1	5	4	6	3	7
3	5	7	9	6	2	1	8	4
5	6	9	2	3	7	4	1	8
1	8	3	4	9	5	2	7	6
7	4	2	6	8	1	3	5	9

FAITH

Tattvas underlying avataras

The Vedic observation "*ajAyamAnO bahudhA vijAyatE*" shows us that Lord Narayana takes many avataras. In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna says to Arjuna: *bahunI mae vyatitAni janmAni*, meaning that He has taken many births. Thus, apart from the well known 10 avataras, the Lord took many more avataras. In each, His glory shone more and more. He became like a well polished ruby, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse. So His greatness becomes more evident because of His avataras. When we are born, we tend to sink lower and lower, because of our thoughts and deeds. The merit of shining through successive births, belongs solely to Him.

In the Gita, Krishna says: *janma karma cha me divyam Eva yo vetti tattvata, tyaktvA dEham punar janma naiti mAmEti so'rjuna*.

In this verse, Krishna says that His avataras and His deeds in those avataras are unique and flawless. He who understands the tattva of His avataras will never be reborn. In other words, he who understands avatara tattva attains moksha. Thus, it is clear that His avataras have deep philosophical meanings.

Thirumangai Azhwar sang in praise of 86 Divya Desams. Forty-seven of these have verses sung only by him. But he also praised the Lord's vibhava avataras.

TEHRAN

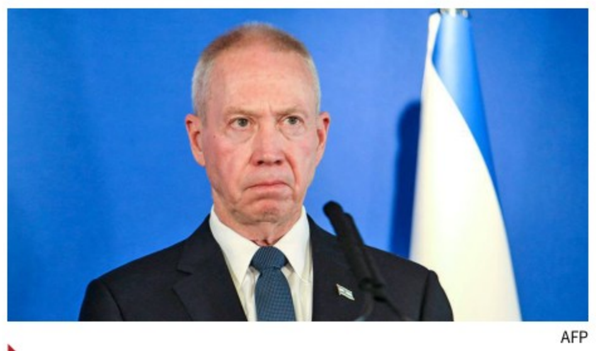
Iran launches imaging satellite 'Pars-I' into orbit from Russia

REUTERS

Iran announced on Thursday the launch of a remote sensing and imaging satellite into orbit from Russia, state media reported. The launch of 'Pars-I' with the Russian Soyuz-2.1b launcher was broadcast live by state media in Iran. It was launched "from Russia's Vostochny launch base", according to the IRNA news agency. AFP

JERUSALEM

Israel Minister says ultra-Orthodox Jews should join military service



AFP

Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant has called for members of the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community to be enrolled in military service as the Gaza war rages on. "We must all bear the burden," Mr. Gallant said, addressing what has long been a divisive political issue in a country with mandatory military service for most citizens. AFP

TEXAS

Largest recorded wildfire in State history scorches Texas Panhandle

AFP

A wildfire spreading across the Texas Panhandle became the largest in State history on Thursday, growing to nearly 1,700 square miles of scorched rural ranchlands and destroyed homes. The fire's explosive growth slowed as snow fell and winds and temperatures dipped, but it was still untamed and threatening more death. AP

WASHINGTON

Biden administration will probe Chinese-made 'smart cars'

AP

Citing potential national security risks, the Biden administration says it will investigate Chinese-made "smart cars" that can gather sensitive information about Americans driving them. The probe could lead to new regulations aimed at preventing China from using sophisticated technology in electric cars. AFP

Israeli strike at aid point kills 104; Gaza toll crosses 30,000

The UN says a quarter of Gaza's 2.3 million Palestinians face starvation; around 80% have fled their homes; aid agencies say it becomes extremely difficult to distribute aid in the enclave amid Israel's ongoing attacks

Associated Press
RAFAH

A strike early on Thursday on a crowd of Palestinians waiting for humanitarian aid in Gaza City killed at least 104 people, bringing the death toll since the start of the Israel-Hamas war to more than 30,000, health officials said.

Gaza City and the surrounding areas in the enclave's north were the first targets of Israel's air, sea and ground offensive, launched in response to Hamas' October 7 attack. The area has suffered widespread devastation and has been largely isolated during the conflict. Trucks carrying food reached northern Gaza this week, the first major aid delivery to the area in a month, officials said on Wednesday.

Aid groups say it has become nearly impossible to deliver humanitarian assistance in most of Gaza because of the difficulty of coordinating with the Israeli military, ongoing hostilities and the breakdown of public order, with crowds of desperate people overwhelming aid convoys. The UN says a quarter of Gaza's 2.3 million Palestinians face starvation; around 80% have fled their homes. In the wake of Thursday's strike, medics found "dozens or hundreds" lying on the ground, according to Fares Afana, the head of the ambulance service at Kamal Adwan Hospital. He said there were not enough ambulances to collect all the dead and wounded and that some were being brought to hospitals in donkey carts.

In ruins: A view from southern Israel shows destroyed buildings in the Gaza Strip, amid ongoing battles between Israel and the Hamas. AFP

The Al Jazeera network showed footage of several dead and wounded people being brought to another nearby hospital, Shifa, after the strike on a main road running along the Mediterranean coast.

In addition to the dozens killed, another 280 people were wounded in Thursday's strike, Health Ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qidra said.

The Israeli military said it was looking into the reports about the strike.

Separately, the Health Ministry said the Palestinian death toll from the war has climbed to 30,035, with another 70,457 wounded.

The Hamas attack into southern Israel that ignited the war killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and the militants seized around 250 hostages. Hamas and other militants are still holding around 100 hostages and the remains of about 30 more, after releasing most of the other captives during a November cease-fire.

Spreading hunger

The increasing alarm over hunger across Gaza has fuelled international calls for another cease-fire, and the U.S., Egypt, and Qatar are working to secure a deal between Israel and Hamas for a pause in fighting and the release of some of the hostages. Mediators hope to reach an agreement before the Muslim holy month of Ramzan starts around March 10. But so far, Israel, and Hamas have remained far apart in public on their demands.

Meanwhile, UN officials have warned of further mass casualties if Israel follows through on vows to attack the southernmost city of Rafah, where more than half of Gaza's population of 2.3 million has taken refuge. They also say a Rafah offensive could decimate what remains of aid operations.

West sending troops to Ukraine could risk nuclear war: Putin

Associated Press
MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed on Thursday to fulfil Moscow's goals in Ukraine and sternly warned the West against deeper involvement in the fighting, saying such a move is fraught with the risk of a global nuclear conflict.

Mr. Putin's blunt warning came in a state-of-the-nation address ahead of next month's election he's all but certain to win, underlining his readiness to raise the stakes in the tug-of-war with the West to protect the Russian gains in Ukraine.

In an apparent reference to French President Emmanuel Macron's statement earlier this week that the future deployment of Western ground troops to Ukraine should not be "ruled out", Mr. Putin warned that it would lead to "tragic" consequences for the countries who decide to do that.

Mr. Putin noted that while accusing Russia of plans to attack NATO allies in Europe, Western allies were "selecting targets for striking our territory" and "talking about the possibility of sending a NATO contingent to Ukraine."

"We remember the fate of those who sent their troop contingents to the territory of our country," the Russian leader said in an apparent allusion to the failed invasions by Napoleon and Hitler. "Now the consequences for the potential invaders will be far more tragic."

Vladimir Putin

In a two-hour speech before an audience of lawmakers and top officials, Mr. Putin cast Western leaders as reckless and irresponsible and declared that the West should keep in mind that "we also have the weapons that can strike targets on their territory, and what they are now suggesting and scaring the world with, all that raises the real threat of a nuclear conflict that will mean the destruction of our civilisation."

At least 24 dead as migrant vessel sinks off Senegal

Agence France-Presse
SAINT-LOUIS

At least 24 people seeking to reach Europe drowned off northern Senegal when their loaded vessel sank, the governor of the Saint Louis region said on Thursday.

Governor Alioune Badara Samb said 24 bodies had been found since Wednesday when the boat got into difficulty in a particularly dangerous part of the northern coast. Mr. Samb added that 21 people had been rescued.

The Saint Louis estuary, where the Senegal River meets the Atlantic Ocean, is notorious for strong currents and areas of thick mud.

Mr. Samb did not say how many people were missing from the vessel, which witnesses said could have been carrying more than 300 people.

Pak. parliament swears in new members amid protests by PTI

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's National Assembly swore in newly elected members on Thursday in a chaotic scene, as allies of jailed former Premier Imran Khan protested what they claim was a rigged election.

Lawmakers from Mr. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party repeatedly chanted "Vote-thief!" as Shehbaz Sharif, who's expected to form the government, entered the lower house of parliament with his brother Nawaz Sharif. Both men are former Premiers.

Outgoing National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf administered the oath to incoming legislators at noon.

PTI lawmakers say they will continue their campaign against 'vote rigging' in and outside parliament

The house echoed with chants of "Long Live Sharif!" when the brothers signed the register after taking their oaths of office. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the young chairman of the Pakistan People's Party and a key Sharif ally, was met with similar chants.

The new government will face challenges including a surge in militant attacks and shortages of energy; as well as an ailing economy that will force Pakistan to seek another bailout from the International Monetary Fund.

Nationwide rallies

Lawmakers from Mr. Khan's PTI told presspersons that they will continue their campaign against the rigging in the elections in and outside parliament. "Yes, the election has been rigged," said Gohar Ali Khan, the current head of PTI.

The PTI has called for nationwide rallies on Saturday. The party claims it results were changed in dozens of constituencies to prevent it from winning a majority, a charge the Election Commission of Pakistan denies.

Silent advocacy

Protestors with cloths covering their mouths, hold a banner which reads 'Freedom of conscience' during a silent pro-life demonstration in Paris as the Senate started debates for inclusion of abortion in the constitution. AFP

Britain descending into 'mob rule' amid protests against Gaza war, warns PM Sunak

Associated Press
LONDON

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said Britain is descending into "mob rule" because of the pressures created by protests against the Israel-Hamas war – words criticised as alarmist by a human rights group.

Mr. Sunak told a meeting of police leaders on Wednesday there was a "pattern of increasingly violent and intimidatory behaviour" that's intended to "shout down free debate and stop elected representatives doing their job."

"There is a growing consensus that mob rule is replacing democratic rule," he said, according to a transcript released by the Prime Minister's office. "And we've got to collectively, all of us, change that urgently."

Tom Southerden of Amnesty International said on Thursday that talk of mob rule "wildly exaggerates the issue and risks delegitimising the rights of peaceful protest."

Mass protests have drawn hundreds of thousands of people to central London almost weekly to call for a cease-fire in a conflict that has killed more than 30,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry in the Hamas-run territory.

The protests have been overwhelmingly peaceful, though there have been dozens of arrests over signs and chants allegedly supporting Hamas. Jewish organisations and many lawmakers say the mass marches have created an intimidating atmosphere for Jewish Londoners – though members of the Jewish community have been among those on pro-cease-fire marches. Divisions over the conflict have convulsed British politics, with some lawmakers saying they fear for their safety after receiving threats over their positions on the war.

Reports of both antisemitic and anti-Muslim abuse in Britain have soared since Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel.

Hong Kong's security law blasted by U.K., U.S.

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

The United States and Britain on Wednesday criticised the Hong Kong government over a proposed new national security law, saying it would curtail freedoms in the finance hub.

Massive pro-democracy protests rocked Hong Kong in 2019, bringing hundreds of thousands of people to the streets to call for greater freedoms. In response, Beijing imposed a national security law to punish four major crimes – secession, subversion, terrorism, and collusion with foreign forces.

Hong Kong officials said last month a further homegrown security law was needed to plug "loopholes", with justice chief Paul Lam saying he had heard no objections during public consultations that ends on Wednesday.

U.K. Foreign Minister David Cameron urged the government in Hong Kong "to re-consider their proposals".

Statement about ownership and other particulars about newspaper "THE HINDU" DAILY as required to be published under Section 19-D Sub-Section (b) of the Press and Registration of Books Act read with Rule 8 of the Registration of Newspapers (Central Rules) 1956.

FORM IV
THE HINDU (DAILY)

1. Place of Publication – BANGALORE
2. Periodicity of Publication – DAILY
3. Printer
   BANGALORE:
   Sri C. Sridhar, Indian
   Plot No.13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-560 099
4. **PUBLISHER:**
   Mrs. Nirmala Lakshman, Indian
   Kasturi Buildings, No. 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 002
5. **EDITOR:**
   Mr. Suresh Nambath,
   Kasturi Buildings, No. 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 002
6. Names and Addresses of Individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total capital –

Proprietors: THG Publishing Pvt. Ltd.,
EQUITY SHARES:

Kasturi & Sons Ltd., Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 002
Mrs. Menaka Parthasarathy, No. 62, Kasturi Ranga Road, Chennai-600 018
Mr. N. Ram, 43-B, Kasturi Ranga Road, Chennai-600 018
Mr. N. Murali, 260-A, T.T.K. Road, Chennai-600 018
Mrs. Nirmala Lakshman, No. 30-A, Kasturi Ranga Road, Chennai-600 018
Mr. K. Balaji, No. 34, Kasturi Ranga Road, Chennai-600 018
Mrs. Nalini Krishnan, No.24, Parthasarathy Gardens, Chennai-600 018
Mr. K. Venugopal, No.30, Kasturi Ranga Road, Chennai-600 018
Ms. Malini Parthasarathy, "Lux Villa", No. 11, Kasturi Ranga Road, Chennai-600 018
Mrs. Lakshmi Srinath, No.38, First Main Road, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600 028
Mr. R. Ramesh and Mr. Rohit Ramesh, No. 15, Parthasarathy Gardens, Chennai-600 018
Mrs. Vijaya Arun, No.189, St. Mary's Road, Chennai-600 018
Mrs. Akila Vijay Iyengar, No. 65, Coronation Road, Singapore-269 464
Mr. M. Krishna, 22-A, Elvaston Place, London SW7 5QE, U.K.
Ms. Kanta Murali, 8, Flagler Street, Toronto, ON M4X 1T8, Canada
Ms. Vidya Ram, No.29, Micheldever Road London SE12 8LX, U.K.
Ms. Madhumitha Balaji, No. 34, Kasturi Ranga Road, Chennai-600 018
Ms. Divya Venugopal Unit # 06-01, 5 B Ridley Park, Singapore-248478
Mr. Rohit Ramesh, No. 15, Parthasarathy Gardens, Chennai-600 018
Ms. Lavanya Venugopal, No.30, Kasturi Ranga Road, Chennai-600 018
Mr. Archit Ramesh, No. 15, Parthasarathy Gardens, Chennai-600 018
Serendipity Investments (P) Ltd., No.28, Kasturi Ranga Road, Chennai-600 018

I, NIRMALA LAKSHMAN, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: 01-03-2024 — **NIRMALA LAKSHMAN**, Signature of the Publisher

INBRIEF

Kotak Mahindra Bank unveils 'Smart Choice Gold Loan'

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. (KMBL) has announced the introduction of 'Smart Choice Gold Loan' for customers. "Unlike other credit products which have stringent eligibility criteria, gold loan has a simpler application and disbursal process," KMBL said in a statement. "By utilising gold as a collateral, borrowers can enjoy lower interest rates compared with conventional credit, translating to savings during the course of the loan tenure," the lender said in a statement.

TVS Holdings plans to redeem NCRPS on March 25

TVS Holdings Ltd.announced that its 9% cumulative non-convertible redeemable preference shares (NCRPS) would mature on March 25 and would be deactivated from trading. March 13 had been fixed for paying the full and final redemption amount of ₹10 per NCRPS and coupon payment at 9% per annum on the redemption value per NCRPS, the supplier of aluminium die-castings said in a regulatory filing. The NCRPS shall stand redeemed on March 25.

Centre releases additional ₹1.42 lakh cr. in tax devolution

The Centre has released an additional instalment of tax devolution of ₹1,42,122 crore to State governments. The release of the additional instalment is aimed at strengthening the hands of State governments for financing various social welfare measures and infrastructure development schemes, the finance ministry said in a statement on Thursday. This instalment is in addition to the tax devolution of ₹72,961 crore already released on February 12. PTI

Govt. capex shrank 40.5% in January leaving fiscal deficit at 64% of target

Centre has room to ramp up revenue and capital spending in February and March, but capital expenditure targets may not be met, reckon economists; government seen 'comfortably' on track to meet revised deficit goal of 5.8% of GDP for FY24

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Spending squeeze

Govt. shrinks January capital expenditure by a sharp 40.5% to ₹47,600 crore containing 10-month fiscal deficit at 64% of RE

- Overall fiscal deficit stood at ₹11 lakh crore by January
- Full-year capex likely to undershoot by at least ₹50,000 crore: ICRA's Nayar
- Less than 70% of planned expenditure met at agriculture, consumer affairs ministries: BoB's Sabnavis

The Centre's capital expenditure contracted by a sharp 40.5% in January to ₹47,600 crore, from ₹80,000 crore a year earlier, while the fiscal deficit hit 64% of the revised estimates for 2023-24 by the end of the month.

With just two months to go in the financial year, the government was likely to miss its capex target and was also behind on its revenue expenditure plans, but appeared comfortably on track to meet the revised deficit goal of 5.8% of GDP, economists reckoned.

"With ₹2.3 lakh crore left to be incurred in February and March to meet the full year target for capex, we expect the capex to undershoot by at least ₹50,000 crore," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar. Gross tax revenues needed to rise just 6% over these two months to hit the 2023-24 goal and corporate taxes were likely to surpass last year's collections, Ms. Nayar reckoned.

Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis noted that only about 75% of the total planned expenditure for the year had been incurred in the first 10 months, so the scope for higher expenditure in the last two months was very high. "This also gets reflected in the high cash balances of the government observed this month," Mr. Sabnavis noted.

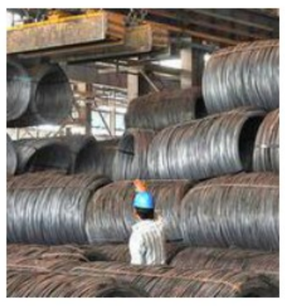
'Food subsidies'

Interestingly, less than 70% of planned expenditure had been achieved in the ministries of agriculture and consumer affairs, which deal with outlays on the PM Kisan scheme and food subsidies, he said, adding the rural development ministry had similar spending levels as well.

The overall fiscal deficit stood at ₹11 lakh crore by January, lower than the ₹11.9 lakh crore over the same period in 2022-23.

January core sector growth slows to 15-month low, output at 10-month high

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI



Output growth in India's eight core sectors dropped to a 15-month low of 3.6% this January, driven by a contraction in fertilizer and refinery production along with base effects from 2023 when the core sectors had grown 9.7% in the same month.

However, in absolute terms, overall output levels were at a 10-month high, with production rising sequentially for the second straight month and 2.2% above the December 2023 levels. Fertilizer production shrank 0.6% in January, the first decline since February 2022.

The Commerce and Industry Ministry, which released the data on Thursday, also upgraded the growth rate for December 2023 to 4.9% from the 14-month low of 3.8% estimated earlier. The Index of Core Industries (ICI) constitutes a little more than 40% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

While refinery products, with a 28% weightage in the ICI, dropped 4.3% in January, marking their first contraction in nine months, electricity generation, with a 20% weightage, recovered from a mere 1.2% uptick in December to rise 5.2% in January.

Coal output growth slowed slightly to 10.2%, but still clocked the seventh straight month of double-digit growth. Crude oil production broke a two-month streak of contraction to register a minor 0.7% growth in January.

"With a healthier trend in other high frequency indicators, we project IIP growth of 2%-4% in January," reckoned ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

While overall the core sectors' performance was a mixed bag in view of the low 3.6% uptick, cement and steel output growth, which are reflective of capex, were 7% and 5.6%, respectively, despite high base effects, said Bank of Baroda's Madan Sabnavis.

Services lifted U.S. prices in Jan.; inflation trending down

Reuters
WASHINGTON

U.S. prices picked up in January amid strong gains in the costs of services, but the annual increase in inflation was the smallest in three years, keeping a mid-year rate cut from the Federal Reserve on the table.

The Commerce Department's report also showed consumer spending slowed, including on motor vehicles and furniture.

PCE inflation rose 2.4%, the smallest year-on-year gain since February 2021.

Tata to build India's first fab as Cabinet approves ₹1.25 lakh cr. of chip facilities

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ashwini Vaishnaw

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved three semiconductor proposals totalling ₹1,25,600 crore, and to be located at Dholera and Sanand in Gujarat, and Morigaon in Assam.

The Dholera and Morigaon facilities would be built by Tata Electronics Pvt. Ltd. and Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Pvt. Ltd. The former would be India's first full-fledged fabrication unit with capacity to produce 50,000 'wafer starts' – the initial form of silicon chips – per month.

The announcement marks a milestone in India's efforts to kick-start a semiconductor ecosystem as while most of the current investments through government subsidies and Productivity-Linked Incentive schemes have only yielded less sophisticated packaging plants that rely on raw and intermediate material from other sources, fabrication is a more fundamental, expensive and technologically extensive domain. The move also reflects growing pressures on global electronics supply chains to diversify away from China.

Tech from Taiwan

Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (PSMC) of Taiwan would be the technology partner for the fab unit, while the technology partners for the assembly and testing unit in Morigaon had been kept confidential at their request, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

The Dholera unit would make "high performance compute chips with 28 nanometre technology," and also produce chips for power management, which Mr. Vaishnaw said accounted for a large part of semiconductor demand. Both facilities would cater to domestic demand and also export chips, the Minister added.

Construction would start within 100 days, he said, adding that the work would hopefully be completed well before the standard 5-year timeline for such facilities. Micron's chip assembly facility, announced last year, would be completed by December, Mr. Vaishnaw added.

The facilities announced on Thursday will create 20,000 direct jobs and 60,000 indirect jobs, the IT Ministry estimates.

India begins second part of critical minerals auction worth $362 bn

Reuters
NEW DELHI

18 blocks of critical minerals including cobalt, nickel and graphite, will be auctioned in 8 States

India began the second part of its critical minerals auction worth ₹30 trillion rupees (about $362 billion), Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Thursday.

A total of 18 blocks of critical and strategic minerals, including graphite, tungsten, vanadium, cobalt and nickel, among others, will be auctioned in eight States, a government statement said. Seventeen mineral blocks have been put up for a composite license, while one block is for a mining lease, it added. A composite license includes a license to examine a block and mine it afterwards.

Mineral blocks are being auctioned in Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, and the southern states of Andhra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Arunachal Pradesh and Rajasthan are also on the list.

The first round of auctions was launched in November last year, in a move to drive the country's clean energy push.

Japan's SoftBank pares its Paytm stake to less than 3%, from 5.01%

Reuters
BENGALURU

Japan's SoftBank Group has further reduced its stake in beleaguered Indian payments firm Paytm to 2.83% from 5.01%, an exchange filing showed on Thursday.

The conglomerate, which held 17.5% stake in Paytm in September 2022, has trimmed its ownership for more than a year through multiple open market deals, with its most recent cut being in January.

While some global investors like Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway and China's Alibaba Group exited the firm in 2023, others, including a Netherlands-based unit of Chinese fintech firm Ant Financial cut their stakes.

Shares of Paytm were down 3.4% in afternoon trade. The stock has slumped 48.5% and lost about ₹234 billion in value since the RBI on January 31 ordered Paytm to wind down its banking arm.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	72,500	0.27
US Dollar	82.89	0.02
Gold	62,970	0.11
Brent oil	83.64	0.25

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3285.40	66.40
Adani Ports	1320.50	21.00
Apollo Hosp	6101.60	-260.75
Asian Paints	2821.90	27.55
Axis Bank	1075.10	0.90
Bajaj Auto	7909.35	-279.30
Bajaj Finserv	1593.80	9.30
Bajaj Finance	6495.35	-3.35
Bharti Airtel	1123.35	-5.40
BPCL	603.85	-5.45
Britannia Ind	4965.20	77.40
Cipla	1480.35	3.35
Coal India	436.70	2.50
Divis Lab	3488.80	-29.55
Dr Reddys Lab	6424.25	-3.80
Eicher Motors	3792.40	-71.35
Grasim Ind	2191.40	5.40
HCL Tech	1663.85	11.95
HDFC Bank	1403.40	-6.00
HDFC Life	582.00	1.40
Hero MotoCorp	4426.50	51.45
Hindalco	503.85	-0.55
Hind Unilever	2412.30	-9.25
ICICI Bank	1052.20	6.00
IndusInd Bank	1474.90	25.70
Infosys	1673.90	2.65
ITC	406.30	-2.00
JSW Steel	800.10	1.50
Kotak Bank	1689.45	5.85
L&T	3477.55	7.35
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5300.85	-109.10
M&M	1932.40	30.75
Maruti Suzuki	11288.35	135.55
NestleIndia	2596.20	25.30
NTPC	335.60	2.30
ONGC	264.60	-1.15
PowerGrid Corp	282.85	3.30
Reliance Ind	2921.60	10.35
SBI Life	1552.55	12.35
State Bank	748.10	5.60
Sun Pharma	1577.95	4.10
TataConsumerProduct	1190.05	22.10
Tata Motors	950.20	-7.85
Tata Steel	140.85	0.10
TCS	4095.10	-23.85
Tech Mahindra	1273.85	-12.00
Titan	3624.40	29.70
UltraTech Cement	9892.40	87.45
UPL	469.70	-6.20
Wipro	518.60	0.90

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 29

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.71	83.03
Euro	89.73	90.08
British Pound	104.77	105.19
Japanese Yen (100)	55.16	55.38
Chinese Yuan	11.50	11.54
Swiss Franc	94.07	94.44
Singapore Dollar	61.50	61.76
Canadian Dollar	60.86	61.10
Malaysian Ringitt	17.39	17.51
Australian Dollar	53.74	53.95

Source:Indian Bank

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : RE-E-Tn. No. 279,280,281,282/2023-24/SE/PH C/ALP-RT-7, RE-E-Tn. No. 283,284,285,286,/2023-24/SE/PHC/ALP-RT-6. **JJM** 1) Haripad- 6LL, 7LL, 6LL OHSRs, 10LL Sump zone -4, Cheruthana & Kumarapuram pump no. 3, 4 & 5 zone-2, 2) Mavelikkara Thazhakkara, Chettikulangara & Karipuzha - Construction of WTP, OHSRs, Supply and installation of Transmission mains and Distribution mains, 3) Haripad-Construction of 9LL, 6LL, 12LL, 15LL OHSRs, 4) Purakkad and near by Pts-Construction of OHSR, Supply and installation of Transmission mains and Distribution mains, **EMD :** Rs. 2,00,000/- to Rs. 5,00,000/-, **Tender fee :** Rs. 13,010/- to Rs. 19,518/-, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 13-03-2024, 02:00:pm. **Phone :** 0477-2237953, **Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
KWA-JB-GL-6-2509-2023-24 Superintending Engineer PH Circle, Alappuzha

National Centre for Radio Astrophysics
TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH
Savitribai Phule Pune University Campus, Ganeshkhind, Pune 411 007
Expression of Interest No. 10 /2023-2024
Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) regarding work for the Construction Phase of the Indian Contribution to SKA-Low Signal Processing Subsystem (SPS) and allied services of the Square Kilometer Array. **EoI Document Fee : Rs. 8,850/- (including GST)**
For details EoI notification and downloading please visit our website: **http://www.ncra.tifr.res.in/ncra/ncra1/public-tenders-1and on CPPP e-procure portal**

AMBUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION (AEDOL)
NOTICE INVITING RE - TENDER FOR DESIGN, DETAILED ENGINEERING, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONG OF PADDLE DRYER
AEDOL, as Implementation Agency of Upgradation of CETPs system in Maligaithope CETP & THUTHIPET at **Ambur Tamil Nadu** in continuation of Tender No.1/2024 and 2/2024 dated: 03-01-2024 re tender No.7/2024 & 8/2024 is called for the submission of tender for the supply, installation & commissioning of Paddle Dryer upto **06-03-2024** under STEP sub scheme of DPIIT GoI. The conditions and tender documents are available in the **website aedol-spv.com.**
Further the tenderer may participate either in one or more than one tender. AEDOL reserves the right to withdraw this proposal or reject any or all bids or to allot part of the work to different agencies without assigning any reasons thereof.
Managing Director, AEDOL

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number: U410PB2010SGC33813
Website: www.pspcl.in, Contact No. +91 9646107151
Tender Enquiry No. 622/GHTP/EMC/PROT-198/Vol-11 Dated 28/02/2024
Dy. Chief Engineer/Superintending Engineer, Elect. Mtc. Circle, O&M, GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-Tender for the work of Preventive, Breakdown & Shutdown Maintenance of 220KV & 66KV C&R Panels, DRs, SER, GPS, GRP, GCDP, static and digital AVR, RTCC Panels, Protection System installed on 6.6KV & 415V switchgear and other panels including meters, VFDs, 6.6KV bus transfer system, fire detection and alarm system, Telephone Exchanges and public Address system installed in plant and power colony for 2x210MW Stage-I and 2x250MW Stage-II GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat, District: Bathinda, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications for a period of one year. For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 28.02.2024, 11.00AM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.gov.in
GHTP-15/24 76155/12/2768/2023/33017

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, R.P.S.&J.S. DAM CIRCLE KOTA
क्रमांक : /RPS&JS/e-NIB-6/ 2023-24/ 3148-3165 दिनांक : 19-02-2024
e-NIB No.6 / 2023-24
On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, e-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors for the work(s) for **Item no 1 Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Dabi MIP Tehsil Talera District Bundi Rs 174.30 Lacs.**
Item no 2 Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Dhaneshwar Tank Tehsil Talera District Bundi Rs 178.58 Lacs.
Item no 3 Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Palka Lower Tank, Tehsil Talera District Bundi Rs 145.56 Lacs.
Item no 4 Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Palka Upper Tank, Tehsil Talera District Bundi Rs 163.53 Lacs.
Item no 5 Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Ramnagar MIP, Tehsil and District Bundi Rs 158.27 Lacs.
Item no 6 Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Dora Anicut Tehsil Telera District Bundi Rs 59.88 Lacs.
Item no 7 Repair, Renovation and Restoration work of Ganeshpura (Barfu) TankTehsil Talera District Bundi Rs 141.90 Lacs.
Item no 8 Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Dora W.H.S. Tehsil Talera District Bundi Rs 123.58 Lacs.
for the period of 12 Months Including rainy season is Invited from Interested bidders from 20.02.2024 (9:30 Hr) to 29.02.2024 till 18:00 Hr. Other Particulars, terms and conditions may be seen on the procurement portal https:// eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & https://sppp.rajasthan.nlc.in and www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in & www.water.rajasthan.gov.in
DIPR/C/1318/2024 Superintending Engineer, R.P.S.&J.S. Dam Circle Kota

The Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Udyog Bhawan, Tilak Marg,C-Scheme,Jaipur-302005
Phone: 0141-2227824 ; Fax 0141-2227257
Website industries.rajasthan.gov.in/rajsico Email: rajsico@rajasthan.gov.in
CIN: U91110RJ1961SGC001118
E-tender BID Invitation Notice30 /2023-24
SUPPLY OF ANGLE IRON POST ITEM
UBN is: RSI2324GLOB00028
RSIC is inviting online competitive BIDS estimate cost 50 lakh from SSI Units who are registered from Industries Department, Government of Rajasthan for supply of Angle Iron Post Item to the Government of Rajasthan Departments, PSUs, etc. on rate contract for the period of upto two years. The Tender/Bid shall only be submitted through online tendering system of **eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**. Last date of submission of online bids is 04.3.2024 till 1.00 PM. For further details visit website **industries.rajasthan.gov.in/rsicl** or **sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** or contact: Marketing section on 0141-2227824.
Raj.Samwad/C/23/13788 Managing Director

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, R.P.S.&J.S. DAM CIRCLE KOTA
क्रमांक : /RPS&JS/e-NIB-7/ 2023-24/ 3129 दिनांक : 19-2-2024
e-NIB No.7 / 2023-24
On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, e-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors for the work(s) for **item no 1 Repair, Renovation and Restoration work of Kewadiya Mahadev WHS, Tehsil Talera District Bundi Rs 206.65 Lacs**
Item no 2 Repair, Renovation and Restoration work of Lambhakho Tank, Tehsil Talera District Bundi Rs 209.40 Lacs
Item no 3 Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Gunwar (Navaliya ki Pul) Anicut Tehsil Talera District Bundi Rs 325.12 Lacs
for the period of 12 Months Including rainy season is Invited from Interested bidders from 20.02.2024 (9:30 Hr) to 11.03.2024 till 18:00 Hr. Other Particulars, terms and conditions may be seen on the procurement portal https:// eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & https://sppp.rajasthan.nlc.In and www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in & www.water.rajasthan.gov.in

S. no	UBN no.
1	WRD2324WSOB01886
2	WRD2324WSOB01887
3	WRD2324WSOB01888

DIPR/C/1313/2024 Superintending Engineer, R.P.S.&J.S. Dam Circle Kota

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in
WBSEDCL invites e-Tenders as follows:
1) NIT No.: **WBSEDCL/RE/RDSS/2023-24/NIeT/04**, Dt.: **23.02.2024** of the **Chief Engineer (RE),** WBSEDCL. **Estimated Project Cost:** ₹ 72,29,23,719/- for the work of *'Augmentation of 11 kV HTOH lines by DOG Conductor for Loss Reduction in Seven (07) Districts of West Bengal under Revamped Reforms-Based and Results-Linked, Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).'*
2) NIT No.: **WBSEDCL/RE/RDSS/2023-24/NIeT/05**, Dt.: **23.02.2024** of the **Chief Engineer (RE),** WBSEDCL. **Estimated Project Cost:** ₹ 12,24,00,000/- for the work of *'Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of 11 kV Capacitor Banks for Loss Reduction in Five (05) Districts of West Bengal under Revamped Reforms-Based and Results-Linked, Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).'*
For details, visit **https://wbtenders.gov.in** & **www.wbsedcl.in**
ICA- 15395(5)/2024

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD Ramanagara Division, Ramanagara.
Short Term Tender Notification No. : 11/2023-24 Date : 29-02-2024
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders are invited from qualified contractors for the works through **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal as per the Standard Bid Documents. The eligible contractors can participate in this tender through KPPP portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Number of Works 03 : 1) Documents may be Downloaded from : 04-03-2024, 2) Last Date for Submission of Tender : 12-03-2024 upto 16.00 hours, 3) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 13-03-2024 at 16.30 hours. (If possible) Tender Processing Fees and EMD as per KPPP Portal.
(Estimate Cost Rs. 150.00 Lakhs to 900.00 Lakhs).
For more information contact the above Office during Office Hours.
Note : Here after any changes with reference to this Notification will be Notified in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal Only.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Ramanagara Division, Ramanagara.
DIPR/Ramanagar/528/Manipal/2023-24

CALLING FOR CHANGE

Smith pushes for rule reform, urges intervention on leg-side bouncers

AP

Steve Smith has said that authorities should urgently address the issue of pacers persistently bowling bouncers to a leg side field, as it restricts a batter's ability to hit the ball "anywhere in front of the wicket". He added a bowler should be allowed just one or two such deliveries, after which he should be warned or it be called a wide.

PRIORITY

Even Rohit, Kohli should play domestic cricket when free: Azad

PTI

Member of the 1983 World Cup-winning team Kirti Azad on Thursday backed the BCCI's directive for cricketers to play Ranji Trophy. "Whenever you are free, even if you're a Rohit Sharma or a Virat Kohli, you should play domestic cricket for the State. That (State) gave you the opportunity to play for the country," he said.

UNDER THE SCANNER

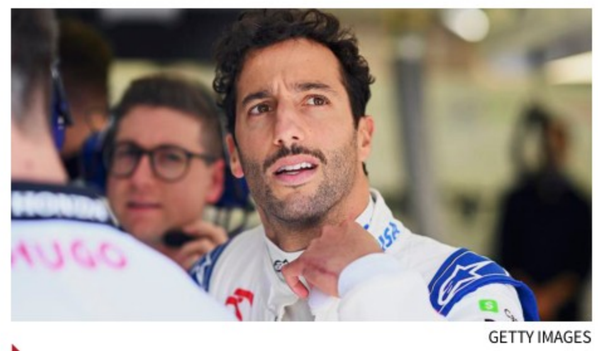
Pogba banned for four years for doping violation

AFP

Juventus midfielder Paul Pogba was banned for the maximum four years by Italy's anti-doping court on Thursday after the World Cup winner tested positive for testosterone. Pogba's positive test was announced in September, stemming from an exam that was carried out after Juventus' game at Udinese on Aug. 20.

QUICKEST

Ricciardo on top in breezy Bahrain GP opening practice



GETTY IMAGES

Daniel Ricciardo topped the times for the re-branded RB team, formerly Alpha Tauri, in Thursday's first practice at the Bahrain Grand Prix. Max Verstappen wound up sixth for Red Bull, but the action provided few clues to likely pace and form for Saturday's race that kicks off an unprecedented 24-race campaign.

Shafali-Capsey's rollicking stand sets up Capitals' win over RCB

Kapp and Jonassen's all-round shows with cameos and telling strikes prove decisive; Smriti's brilliant innings of 74 goes in vain for Royal Challengers as they lose the plot after a promising start

WPL SEASON 2

Mayank Chaudhary
BENGALURU

Delhi Capitals rode on Shafali Verma's half-century (50, 31b, 3x4, 4x6) and Jess Jonassen's impressive all-round show (three for 21 and 36 n.o., 16b, 4x4, 2x6) to beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 25 runs here at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Thursday.

Chasing 195, RCB skipper Smriti Mandhana put on a show in front of a packed crowd.

She took Royal Challengers past 50 inside Power-Play single-handedly and brought up her maiden WPL fifty off 32 deliveries in the eighth over.

Opener Sophie Devine fell to Arundhati Reddy before Marizanne Kapp removed the dangerous Smriti, cleaning her up in the 12th over, putting a massive dent in RCB's hope.

Although S. Meghana and Richa Ghosh scored valuable runs down the order, Royal Challengers fell like a pack of cards towards the end.

Arundhati sent Nadine de Klerk packing and Meghana was run out in the 19th over before Jonassen picked three scalps in the last over to restrict RCB to 169 for nine.

Earlier, a collective batting effort helped DC notch up 194 for five after being put in to bat.

An 82-run stand between Shafali and Alice Capsey (46, 33b, 4x4, 2x6) for the second wicket, where both batters struck boundaries at will, took Capitals past 100 in 12 overs. Shafali fell to Shreyanka Patil after reaching her fifty.

RCB pulled things back with two quick wickets as de Klerk removed Jemimah Rodrigues for a duck before dismissing Capsey to deny her a fifty.

Kapp (32, 16b, 2x4, 3x6) and Jonassen added 48 off 22 for the fifth wicket, providing DC a late flourish.

Jonassen clobbered Shreyanka for a four and a six in the last over, helping Capitals set a formidable target that was enough to stop Royal Challengers.

Packing a punch: Shafali's quickfire fifty was a perfect launching pad for Delhi Capitals' formidable total. K. MURALI KUMAR

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS
Meg Lanning c Wareham b Devine 11 *(17b, 2x4)*, Shafali Verma c Wareham b Shreyanka 50 *(31b, 3x4, 4x6)*, Alice Capsey b de Klerk 46 *(33b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Jemimah Rodrigues c Simran b de Klerk 0 *(4b)*, Marizanne Kapp c Simran b Devine 32 *(16b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Jess Jonassen (not out) 36 *(16b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Arundhati Reddy (not out) 10 *(4b, 2x4)*; Extras (lb-2, w-6, nb-1): 9; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 194.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-28 (Lanning, 4.5 overs), 2-110 (Shafali, 11.6), 3-111 (Jemimah, 12.5), 4-124 (Capsey, 14.6), 5-172 (Kapp, 18.3).

RCB BOWLING
Renuka 4-0-28-0, Devine 3-0-23-2, Molineux 3-0-23-0, Asha 2-0-30-0, Wareham 1-0-13-0, de Klerk 4-0-35-2, Shreyanka 3-0-40-1.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Smriti Mandhana b Kapp 74 *(43b, 10x4, 3x6)*, Sophie Devine c Jonassen b Arundhati 23 *(17b, 1x4, 2x6)*, S. Meghana run out 36 *(31b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Richa Ghosh c Jonassen b Kapp 19 *(13b, 2x6)*, Georgia Wareham c Capsey b Shikha 6 *(7b)*, Nadine de Klerk c sub (Sutherland) b Arundhati 1 *(2b)*, Simran Bahadur c Lanning b Jonassen 2 *(2b)*, Sophie Molineux c Radha b Jonassen 1 *(2b)*, Shreyanka Patil (not out) 1 *(2b)*, Asha Sobhana c sub (Sutherland) b Jonassen 0 *(1b)*, Renuka Singh (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-3, nb-1): 5; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 169.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-77 (Devine, 8.3), 2-112 (Smriti, 11.6), 3-138 (Richa, 15.1), 4-150 (Wareham, 16.6), 5-164 (Meghana, 18.3), 6-164 (de Klerk, 18.4), 7-167 (Molineux, 19.1), 8-168 (Simran, 19.3), 9-168 (Asha, 19.4).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Kapp 4-0-35-2, Minnu 2-0-28-0, Jonassen 4-0-21-3, Shikha 4-0-27-1, Arundhati 4-0-38-2, Radha 2-0-19-0.

Toss: Royal Challengers.
Delhi Capitals won by 25 runs.
Friday's match: UP Warriorz vs. Gujarat Giants, 7.30 p.m.

Rahul ruled out of fifth Test, Bumrah returns to the fold

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Senior India batter K.L. Rahul will not feature in the fifth and final Test against England in Dharamshala owing to an injury while pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah will return to the team, the BCCI said on Thursday.

Rahul, who continues to feel sore in his right quadriceps, has travelled to London to get an expert opinion on his injury.

The wicketkeeper-batter became unavailable after the series-opener in Hyderabad in January and as per the BCCI, he was 90% fit before the third Test in Rajkot earlier this month.

"Mr. K.L. Rahul, whose participation in the final IDFC First Bank Test was subject to fitness, has been ruled out of the fifth and final Test in Dharamshala. The BCCI Medical Team is closely monitoring him and coordinating with specialists in London for further management of his issue," the Board said in a release.

Meanwhile Bumrah, who was released from the squad for the fourth Test in Ranchi in line with the team's workload management policy, will link up with the squad in Dharamsala for the final Test, beginning March 7.

K.L. Rahul. K.R. DEEPAK

Rahul's absence from the final Test means Rajat Patidar remained with the squad. All-rounder Washington Sundar has also been released from the squad. "He will join Tamil Nadu – his Ranji Trophy side – for their Ranji Trophy semifinal fixture against Mumbai, starting March 2, 2024. He will join the India squad after the completion of the domestic fixture for the fifth Test, if need be," the BCCI said.

The squad: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Jasprit Bumrah (Vice-capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Rajat Patidar, Sarfaraz Khan, Dhruv Jurel (wk), K.S. Bharat (wk), Devdutt Padikkal, R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar and Akash Deep.

Green. AFP

Green rescues Australia with defiant ton

Agence France-Presse
WELLINGTON

Cameron Green slammed only his second Test century on Thursday to steer Australia to 279 for nine at stumps on the opening day of the first Test here.

The visitors were tottering on 89 for four after being put into bat at the Basin Reserve before Green dug in for a rescue mission with the help of Mitchell Marsh, who made 40.

The 24-year-old Green brought up three figures with his 16th four in the final over to end unbeaten on 103 with Josh Hazlewood yet to score.

Henry dismissed Smith for 31 before lunch, bowled Khawajaafter the break, and then snagged Marsh and Nathan Lyon.

The scores: Australia 279/9 in 85 overs (Green 103 batting, Mitchell Marsh 40, Khawaja 33, Smith 31, Henry 4/43) vs New Zealand.
Toss: New Zealand.

Blancaneaux eases past second seed Walton

DELHI OPEN

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Geoffrey Blancaneaux of France outplayed the second seed Adam Walton of Australia 6-3, 6-0 in the pre-quarterfinals of the Dafa News $82,000 Delhi Open Challenger tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex on Thursday.

Walton struggled to find his rhythm right through the match. In contrast, Blancaneaux who had lost in the first round of the Bengaluru and Pune Challenger events over the last fortnight, thrived in the conditions, with strong serves and fluent strokes.

In the quarterfinals, Blancaneaux will play qualifier Philip Sekulic of Australia.

In doubles, second seeds Arjun Kadhe and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan fought back against Constantin Kouzmine and Maxime Janvier, but the Frenchmen handled the climax nicely for a 7-6(4), 6-7(4), [10-6] victory in the quarterfinals.

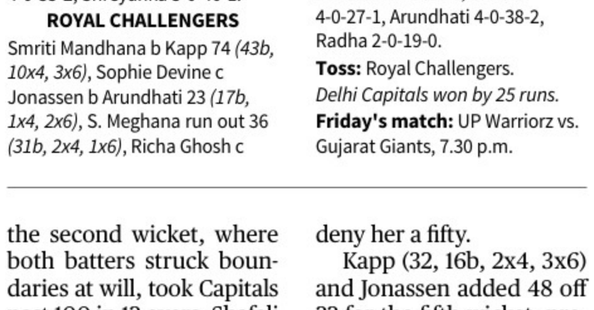
The Indian pair led 4-2 in the super tie-break, but after being on par at 5-5, the French pulled away with a better game.

The other Indian pair of Nitin Kumar Sinha and Manish Sureshkumar lost 6-4, 6-4 to Germans Jakob Schnaitter and Mark Wallner, who had knocked out the top seeds Saketh Myneni and Ramkumar Ramanathan earlier.

Percentage game: Blancaneaux thrived in the conditions, with strong serves and fluent strokes against Walton. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

The results:
Pre-quarterfinals: Tristan Boyer (USA) bt Dane Sweeny (Aus) 7-5, 6-3; Dalibor Svrcina (Cze) bt Samuel Ruggeri (Ita) 7-5, 6-2; Philip Sekulic (Aus) bt Evgeny Donskoy 6-3, 6-2; Geoffrey Blancaneaux (Fra) bt Adam Walton (Aus) 6-3, 6-0.
Doubles: Quarterfinals: Jakob Schnaitter & Mark Wallner (Ger) bt Nitin Kumar Sinha & Manish Sureshkumar 6-4, 6-4; Ray Ho (Tpe) & Calum Puttergill (Aus) bt Toshihide Matsui & Kaito Uesugi (Jpn) 6-4, 6-3; Piotr Matuszewski (Pol) & Matthew Romios (Aus) bt M Rifki Fitriadi (Ina) & Ryuki Matsuda (Jpn) 6-4, 7-5; Constantin Kouzmine & Maxime Janvier (Fra) bt Arjun Kadhe & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 7-6(4), 6-7(4), [10-6].

Paltan and Steelers clash for the ultimate honour



The big prize: Captains of Paltan and Steelers, Inamdar and Dahiya, ahead of the final. PKL

PKL

Saikat Chakraborty
HYDERABAD

Puneri Paltan and Haryana Steelers, boasting the best defences in Pro Kabaddi League season 10, will clash for the title here at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium on Friday.

Led by coach B.C. Ramesh and all-rounder Aslam Inamdar, Paltan enter as favourites due to their dominant season and aggressive style. Featuring raiders like Inamdar, Mohit Goyat, Pankaj Mohite and Akash Shinde, the Puneri team will aim to lift its first-ever title. However, their true weapon is their innovative, team-oriented defence, marshalled by Iranian left-corner Mohammadreza Chiyaneh.

On the contrary, the Steelers reached their first-ever final through sheer determination. Coach Manpreet Singh's team also boasts a strong defensive unit, led by Jaideep Dahiya, Mohit Nandal, and Rahul Sethpal. Vinay and Shivam Patare have emerged as key raiders.

This final promises a thriller where both teams will use strategic brilliance and defensive prowess to rewrite history and claim their first PKL title.

F1's longest season set to kick off after an eventful off-season

Associate Press
SAKHIR

After the most dramatic off-season in recent Formula 1 history comes its longest-ever season.

This off-season, seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton stunned the sport by announcing he is moving to Ferrari next year. The switch surprised his current team, Mercedes, and even his parents. Netflix star Guenther Steiner was removed from his role leading the Haas team.

It's been a lot for drivers and F1 fans to follow even before a marathon season begins.

All three of the current and former champions on the grid – Hamilton, Max Verstappen and Fernando Alonso – agree 24 races push the limits of what F1 drivers and team members can take.

"When I started we had 16 races," two-time champion Alonso, who has a record 377 career race starts, said on Wednesday. "Now we are up to 24 and this is not sustainable for the future for anyone."

Verstappen's Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez voiced concern for staff on F1 teams who, he said, seemed exhausted at the final races of last year.

Concerned: Verstappen, who completely dominated last season, is not a fan of the impending marathon campaign. GETTY IMAGES

"I remember seeing a lot of zombies in Abu Dhabi, after Vegas," he said Wednesday. "We are trying to basically put some points across that it's not only for the drivers, to be honest. There's a lot of mechanics, engineers and basically they travel the world weekend after weekend, a lot of hours on the planes."

The record season means an extended goodbye for Hamilton, who is leaving Mercedes at the end of the season to join Ferrari, and raised concerns over how the expanded calendar might worsen F1's impact on the environment.

Preseason testing last week at the same track in Bahrain was twice disrupted by drain covers flying off and leaving debris across the track – prompting Verstappen to voice concerns over safety – but that problem has now been solved for now.

Rain isn't a major concern in Bahrain so problem drains at two corners have simply been filled in with concrete.

Modern F1 cars' powerful ground-effect aerodynamics generate grip between the floor and the track surface but that force can also pull loose items away from the ground. Carlos Sainz Jr.'s Ferrari was badly damaged by a water valve cover in practice for the Las Vegas Grand Prix in November, underlining the risks to drivers.

INBRIEF

Kush Maini secures pole for Bahrain F2 feature race

Invicta Racing's Kush Maini secured his maiden pole in the F2 championship with a time of 1:41.696 at the first FIA Formula 2 race of the year in Bahrain on Thursday. He was two-tenths of a second faster than teammate Gabriel Bortoleto. It is the second season for Maini in the championship. The 23-year-old will start 10th in the reverse grid sprint race and from pole for the feature race. Meanwhile, Formula One announced on Thursday that FanCode will be its broadcast partner for the next two seasons in India, with the streaming site showing all practice and qualifying sessions, sprint events, and Grands Prix.

Manipur in last eight; Delhi and Railways also advance

Former champion Manipur booked a quarterfinal berth with a remarkable 4-1 win over neighbour Mizoram in a final stage Group B league match of the 77th National football championship in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh, on Thursday.

The results:
Group B: Railways 1 (Subrata Murmu 53) bt Karnataka 0.
Manipur 4 (Leimajam Singh 8, P. Sanathoi Meetei 35 & 90, Pebam Renedy Singh 56) bt Mizoram 1 (Malsawmzuala Tlangte 84).
Delhi 3 (Bhaaranyu Bansal 7, Milind Negi 43, Sridarth Nongmeikapam 90+7) bt Maharashtra 2 (Mohammed Arfat Ansari 2, 65).

Thunderbolts hit Black Hawks to post second win in the PVL

Kolkata Thunderbolts picked up its second win, going past Hyderabad Black Hawks with a dominant 15-8, 15-8, 11-15, 20-18 win in the third season of the Prime Volleyball League in Chennai on Thursday. Vinit Kumar was named the player-of-the-match.

LIVE TELECAST

Afghanistan vs Ireland: Only Test, day 3, FanCode, 11.30 a.m.
PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30 & 8.30 p.m.
WPL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
PKL: (final), Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.
New Zealand vs Australia: 1st Test, day 3, Prime Video, 3.30 a.m. (Saturday)

RCTC set to host a weekend of racing extravaganza

With a total prize-money of ₹40 million, it is the richest event ever in the club's history; six graded races, including the Invitation Cup, to be held on March 2 and 3 at the historic race course

Holding court: RCTC member Cyrus Madan, right, announcing the details of the Invitation Cup weekend races in the presence of, from left, stewards H.P. Ramchandani and Enrico Piperno, HPSL chairman Suresh Paladugu and RCTC chairman Sudipto Sarkar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

The Indian Turf Invitation Cup promises some exciting action as the event returns to the 'City of Joy' after six years in the richest 'invitation weekend' ever, with a prize-money of ₹40 million, in the history of the iconic Royal Calcutta Turf Club (RCTC) here.

Altogether 166 horses, including an unprecedented 71 of them from outside the city, will start the weekend, according to information shared at a press conference held in the club premises on Thursday.

Some 25 visiting trainers, 16 local trainers and 51 jockeys are likely to be seen in action in the action in the racing show-piece, which has roped in Horse Power Sports League (HPSL) as it's principal sponsor.

Four Grade-I and one Grade-II and Grade-III races apiece, featuring top-class equine breeds vying for championship honours, will be held on the magnificent lush green turf of RCTC.

Marquee events

Among the Grade-I races, the HPSL Indian Turf Invitation Cup, the Zavary S. Poonawala Sprinters' Cup, the Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Memorial Stayers' Cup and the Maj P.K. Mehra Memorial Super Mile Cup will be contested over 2400m, 1200m, 3000m and 1600m respectively.

The Suresh Mahindra Multi Million Trophy (Grade-II) and the Dashmesh Stud Calcutta Million 2023-24 (Grade-III) races will be run over 1400m and 1600m respectively.

Champions, both equine and humans, will be honoured with the Turf Authorities of India racing awards on March 2 evening.

Awards will be presented in the champion owner, champion trainer, champion jockey, champion stud farm, champion horse of the year, and the hall of fame categories.

D Minchu lives up to the billing in the Leap Year Plate (Div. I)

HYDERABAD: Trainer G. Sandeep's D Minchu, ridden by Deepak Singh, won the Leap Year Plate (Div. I), the main event of the concluding day's races of the Hyderabad Winter Races on Thursday (Feb. 29). The winner is owned by Mr. B.M. Dayananda. Trainer R.H.Sequeira saddled three winners on the day.

1. TUNGABHADRA PLATE: SUGAR (B.R. Kumar) 1, Vital Sign (Abhay Singh) 2, Mikimoto (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 3 and Desert Hero (Shivansh) 4. Neck, Head and 1-1/2. 1m, 27.42s. ₹79 (w), 15, 13 and 12 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 54, SHW: 32 and 26, FP: 383, Q: 240, Tanala: 1,224. Favourite: Desert Hero. Owner: Mr. Y. Damodar. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

2. LEAP YEAR PLATE (DIV. II) : SUN DANCER (Afroz Khan) 1, D Yes Boss (Deepak Singh) 2, Clefairy (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and Garnet (Ajay Kumar) 4. 1, Shd and 1-1/2. 1m, 10.97s. ₹102 (w), 19, 22 and 12 (p). SHP: 84, THP: 46, SHW: 59 and 165, FP: 1,090, Q: 804, Tanala: 3,711. Favourite: Garnet. Owners: Mr. Atul Bhanu Sanghani, Mr. Keerthi Narasimhachar, Mr. Ketineni Sayaji Rao & Mr. Rajesh Sanghani. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

3. HAVERI PLATE (DIV. III): CODE BLUE (Abhay Singh) 1, See My Attitude (Afroz Khan) 2, Special Effort (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 3 and Jet Falcon (Mohit Singh) 4. Not run: Chica Bonita and Honourable Lady. 5, 2-1/2 and 1. 1m, 26.53s. ₹107 (w), 19, 20 and 30 (p). SHP: 45, THP: 75, SHW: 33 and 35, FP: 564, Q: 217, Tanala: 10, 641. Favourite: See My Attitude. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

4. LEAP YEAR PLATE (DIV. I): D MINCHU (Deepak Singh) 1, Midsummer Star (Ajay Kumar) 2, Tripurari (Mohit Singh) 3 and Amyra (Md. Ekram Alam) 4. 1-1/4, 3/4 and 1-1/2. 1m, 12.01s. ₹28 (w), 13, 14 and 12 (p). SHP: 41, THP: 36, SHW: 17 and 18, FP: 123, Q: 68, Tanala: 226. Favourite: D Minchu. Owner: Mr. B.M. Dayananda. Trainer: G. Sandeep.

5. HAVERI PLATE (DIV. I): ROYAL PAL (Md. Ekram Alam) 1, Crimson Rose (Abhay Singh) 2, Carnival Lady (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Desert Sultan (Mohit Singh) 4. 2-3/4, 1-3/4 and Shd. 1m, 27.07s. ₹41 (w), 13, 18 and 26 (p). SHP: 69, THP: 69, SHW: 24 and 31, FP: 337, Q: 283, Tanala: 3,783. Favourite: Sadiya. Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

6. LEAP YEAR PLATE (DIV. II): JURAMENTO (B.R. Kumar) 1, Dyanoosh (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 2, True Icon (Shivnash) 3 and La Mirage (Ajay Kumar) 4. 1-1/2, 3/4 and 1. 1m. 9.79s. ₹23 (w), 10, 16 and 17 (p). SHP: 49, THP: 36, SHW: 35 and 34, FP: 79, Q: 51, Tanala: 538. Favourite: Juramento. Owners: Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta, Mr. M. Prashant Kumar, Mr. M. Pradeep Kumar, Mr. Syed Ainuddin Arif & Mr. Rafaat Hussain. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

7. HAVERI PLATE (DIV. II): AMPERE'S TOUCH (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Indian Temple (Ajay Kumar) 2, Dream Jewel (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Silver Lining (Md. Ekram Alam) 4. Neck, 2 and 2-1/4. 1m, 27.16s. ₹35 (w), 17, 11 and 40 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 70, SHW: 31 and 12, FP: 160, Q: 87, Tanala: 1,254. Favourite: Indian Temple. Owner: Mr. N. Shyam Sunder. Trainer: N. Rawal.

8. SUTLEJ PLATE: BLUE BRIGADE (Ajay Kumar) 1, Glimmer Of Hope (Surya Prakash) 2, Pancho (Shivansh) 3 and Stoli (Md. Ekram Alam) 4. Not run: Nkalanzinzi and Good Tidings. 1/2, Head and 4. 1m, 14.19s. ₹69 (w), 22, 23 and 11 (p). SHP: 66, THP: 49, SHW: 37 and 39, FP: 511, Q: 306, Tanala: 1,397. Favourite: Pancho. Owner: Mr. G.K. Keshava Murthy. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹5,574 (56 tkts.) & 30%: 370 (361 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 24,619 (3 tkts.), (ii) 1,631 (38 tkts.).

Treble : (i) 14,777 (2 tkts.), (ii) 4,328 (6 tkts), (iii) 384 (115 tkts.).

Indians do well at C'wealth chess meet

Sports Bureau

India did exceptionally well in the Commonwealth chess championships in Melaka, Malaysia, recently, winning 10 gold medals in different categories.

The results (winners only):

Open: Mitrabha Guna; **Open: U-18:** S. Ashwath.

U-14: Jval Saurin Patel; **U-10:** Rahul Ramakrishnan.

U-8: Mani Sarbartho; **Blitz: Open:** N.R. Vignesh.

Girls: U-16: Sneha Halder; **U-14:** Prishita Gupta; **U-12:** Pratitee Bordoloi; **U-10:** A.S. Sharvaanica.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Kaushik shines

Kaushik Nair top-scored with 78 as Cavaliers defeated Hammonds by three wickets in the KSCA (Group I) third division league.

The scores: RVCE 128 in 40.4 overs (Adarsh Rangappa 42, K.B. Vivek 41, Arnav Pillutla 4/14) lost to Whirlwind Cricketer 129/1 in 22.1 overs (Gyan Somaiah 65 n.o., Naveen 33 n.o.).

Hammonds 198/8 in 50 overs (N.G. Kushal 80 n.o., M. Malatesh 32, Shivam Shukla 4/26) lost to Cavaliers 200/7 in 49.2 overs (Kaushik Nair 78, Manoj Maruthi 43, Vignesh 3/34).

Bangalore SC 257/9 in 50 overs (M.A. Adarsh 28, J. Karthik 99 n.o., Kishan Kumar 27, Krishav Somasundar 3/40, Sayan Arjun 3/42) lost to Malleswaram Gymkhana 278/9 in 48 overs (Samith Prabhu 59, C.R. Kumarswamy 36, C. Manu 51, M. Karthik 3/51, J. Karthik 3/26). [20 runs added to Malleswaram Gymkhana's total as the Bangalore SC was penalised for slow over-rate].

Brace by Kaviarasan

Kaviarasan bagged a brace as Bangalore Warriors FC defeated Tilak Memorial FC 3-1 in the BDFA B-division league on Thursday.

The results: Bangalore Warriors 3 (Kaviarasan 33, 49, S. Sachin 67) bt Tilak Memorial 1 (Sriram Rajagopalan 57).

AGORC 0 drew with Income Tax 0; Bangalore Eagles 1 (S. Sanjay Kumar 80+6) bt Bangalore City 0.

Jeevitesh emerges Open champion

International Master Sai Agni Jeevitesh emerged the Open category champion with 6.5 points at the Bothireddy Karnataka State rapid chess tournament recently. Sathvik Adiga was second with six points.

Other results:
U-14: K.G.D. Nithish (6.5 points); **U-12:** Milan S. Gowda (7).
U-10: Neeti Ajeesh (4); U-8: Rikesh Anand (5).

Palak beats Shital to top air pistol

Podium finish: Shital, Palak and Suruchi, the toppers in air pistol. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Asian Games gold medallist Palak Gulia beat qualification topper Shital Desai by 1.4 to top the women's air pistol in the third National shooting selection trials at the Madhya Pradesh Academy on Thursday. The 18-year-old Gulia shot 242.0 after qualifying with a modest score of 578. Desai had shot 581.

The results: 10m air pistol:
Men: 1. Amit sharma 242.6 (584); 2. Sharvan Kumar 242.2 (586); 3. Gurpreet Singh 221.7 (582).

Women: 1. Palak Gulia 242.0 (578); 2. Shital Desai 240.6 (581); 3. Suruchi 220.0 (577).

Praggnanandhaa commits a blunder

Press Trust of India
PRAGUE

Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa committed a time-pressure blunder in his loss to Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran in the second round of Prague Masters Chess tournament here. The defeat ended Praggnanandhaa's impressive 47-game unbeaten streak in classical chess.

The results (round 2): Parham Maghsoodloo (2) bt R. Praggnanandhaa (1); David Navara (1) drew with Vincent Keymer (0.5); Nguyen Thai Dai Van (0) lost to D. Gukesh (1.5); Vidit Gujrathi (1) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattarov (1.5); Richard Rapport (1) drew with Bartel Mateusz (0.5).

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